Social Conditions, Improvement of -1937

Georgia
6

University Homes Near Completion; 2,500 Negroes To Occupy Project

Atlanta's Second Federal Apartment Unit Will Open Doors Soon.

Well pleased with the experiment in low-cost housing for white persons here the federal government is about to step in as landlord for some 2,500 Atlanta negroes.

University Homes, as the 41 trim apartment buildings and stores will be called, was practically completed this week. Applicants are knocking at the government's door.

It will be several weeks before any are admitted, because PWA is a careful landlord and wants to be certain all who live in University Homes deserve to.

Techwood Homes, the housing project for white persons, first in the country, is now a bustling little "city within a city" with 1,752 residents. They have their own athletic association, sewing circles and scout organizations.

In the four months Techwood Homes have been occupied there have been no arrests, no major squabbles among the 569 families there, D. A. Calhoun, PWA housing division's district manager, reported.

Like Techwood, which adjoins Georgia Tech, the negro "little city" will have plenty of educational atmosphere about it. Three institutions—Morehouse, Spelman and Atlanta University—are adjacent.

The tenants will find one convenience which even Techwood does not have—each of the 678 apartments has a private street entrance.

They will find metal cabinets, electric stoves and refrigerators in their kitchens to make up for the lack of doors on the clothes closets in their bedrooms.

The government allocated $2,500,000 for the project. Of that sum, $301,617 was spent buying up the 17 1-2 acres where 218 ramshackle frame houses stood, one of Atlanta's worst fire and health hazards.

A central steam heating system and space for eight stores, doctors' offices, a clinic and five laundries are in the apartment group. University Homes has space for playgrounds, parks and community activities.

PWA is figuring out what rentals will be. They will be lower than Techwood's, where tops is $31.30 a month for six rooms and minimum is $16.40 for three rooms (utility charges are extra—range between $5.95 and $8.35).

University Homes has 104 two-room apartments to Techwood's none.

Techwood, which eliminated 197 frame shacks and transformed a swampy section near the city's center, is affecting surrounding territory. Private landlords are tidying up their places, rebuilding.

Similar action already is beginning near University Homes.

NEGRO RECREATION CENTER TO OPEN FORMALLY TUESDAY

The colored recreation center located in the old Treadaway hall on Broad street will hold a formal opening program under the direction of Rev. Ralph Riley and members of the colored recreation council committee Tuesday night at 7 p. m.

Coach Hollingsworth of the high school faculty will demonstrate volleyball, ping pong, handball, shuffle board and paddle tennis games with members of his athletic teams while Maggie Sheppard, colored recreation leader will demonstrate games suitable for mixed groups.

All colored citizens except small children are invited. This program is planned to be of special interest to those 16 years of age and over.

The new center is quite an athletic clubroom and is serving a large number of the negro boys and giris each day.

SELECTION OF TENANTS OF UNIVERSITY HOMES IS ORDERED BY ICKES

Negro Slum Clearance Project To House 675 Families; 1,000 Applicants.

2-17-37

With the University Homes slum clearance project nearly ready for occupancy, selection of tenants for the negro development was ordered yesterday by Public Works Administrator Harold L. Ickes.

The project will provide homes for 675 families, with more than 1,000 already registered. Tenant selection will be handled from an office established for the purpose in Room 414, 250 Auburn avenue, N. E.

The homes consist of 2, 3, 4 and 5-room units. Rent on the two-room units vary from $2.65 to $3.10 per week, with a utility charge per week of $1.20. Three-room units rent from $3.45 to $4.00 per week, with a utility charge of $1.35. Four-room units rent from $4.20 to 5.05 per week, with a utility charge of $1.50. Five-room units rent from $5.10 to $5.95 per week, with a utility charge of $1.50.

The buildings have not been accepted from the contractor by the government, but selection of tenants has been started so that there will be no delay in occupancy following acceptance, it was announced.

The new homes are apartments and group houses, each with private ground floor entrance. Buildings occupy only about 25 per cent of the 18-acre site, which adjoins Atlanta University.

Under the George-Healey act, homes are restricted to families whose income aggregates not more than five times the gross rent charges.

Augusta, Ga., Chronicle
February 13, 1937

COMMUNITY CENTER FOR NEGROES OPENS

Augusta's first WPA community center for Negroes was opened at 507 Second street yesterday, District Administrator John L. Peters announced.

At the center, instructions will be given by trained teachers in home-making, handicrafts, sewing and other subjects.

The new center was made possible by the support of a group of Negro citizens who provided the quarters, furnishings and other equipment for the center.

The project will be under the general supervision of W. P. Sheppard, district recreational director and under the direct supervision of Mrs. Norma Morris, area supervisor for Richmond county. It was explained that the center is being operated as part of the WPA recreational program in the state.

Augusta, Ga., Chronicle
February 21, 1937

Bethlehem Community Center Needs Our Helpful Interest

Twenty-five years ago a great experiment was begun in an abandoned beer saloon on Campbell and Florence streets here in Augusta, financed through the North Georgia Conference of the Methodist church. A young Alabama woman, Mary DeBardeleben, was appointed by the Woman's Missionary Council of that church to begin a social settlement for Negroes, the purpose of which was to provide wholesome, supervised activities for Negro citizens.

The story of the progress of this experiment reads like a romance, and we of Augusta point with pride to "Bethlehem Community Center," because of the great work that has been done there and the interracial understanding that has been brought about through the efforts of its leaders. There is no more admirable institution in the entire community, or the country for that matter, than this project. Through the activities and training provided there we find improved living conditions, more enlightened citizens and a better understanding of the responsibilities of citizenship.

Just seven years ago a new, modernized plant was opened, having additional facilities, including club rooms for boys and girls, sewing rooms, library, kitchen, kindergarten, offices and an apartment for workers. The gymnasium is the only one of its type in this section and provides a standard "gym" with showers and dressing rooms, and serves as an auditorium with a seating capacity of about 1,200. There is also a small cottage serving as a club house for older boys, and as living quarters for the Boys' Workers at the Center.

Last year the first extension branch of Bethlehem Center in Augusta was opened in a needy community across the city. This new project is known as the Springfield Branch and promotes activities similar to those at the main Center. Another extension was opened about ten miles from Augusta in the heart of a densely populated Negro section, thus promoting a rural center.

The challenge for development is tremendous and we believe that the people of this section, realizing the great good that is being accomplished by this institution for it has become just that, will give of their time and money that the work may go on, gaining in volume as well as in vaule.

At the present time the budget is far from adequate to meet the increasing demands of an enlarged program promoted at the main center and its two extension projects. The major needs at Bethlehem Community Center are:

1. A well equipped clinic at the Springfield Center.
2. Elimination of an outstanding debt on the Springfield Center.
3. Three sewing machines for the various home-craft departments.
4. One truck for use at the camp and rural center for group transportation.
5. Equipment for Boys' work shops.
6. A recreation building and swimming facilities for the rural center.
7. Two drinking fountains.
8. Miscellaneous supplies for various activities.
9. Salary for a full time rural worker.
10. Balance of salary for full time Boys' worker.

The Chronicle urges that the people of this community go out to Bethlehem Community Center and see the activities, discuss with the leaders what extent with the members of the Advisory Board who are trying so earnestly to promote better conditions for our Negroes. No better form of philanthropy could be selected by citizens who desire to help this community than a donation to this worthy cause. "For as much as you have done unto the least of these—" undoubtedly applies to just such cases as will be helped through Bethlehem Community Center

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UNIVERSITY HOMES OCCUPATION DAY SET FOR APRIL 17

Constitution

300 Families Are Expected To Move in at One Time.

4-6-37

One of the biggest moving days in Atlanta's history is scheduled for Saturday, April 17, when the University Homes, federal low-cost housing project for negroes, will be opened for tenants, according to K. S. McAllister, district manager of the PWA housing division.

Atlanta

Three hundred families have been selected to occupy apartments in the new project, constructed at a cost of more than $2,500,000, and the majority are expected to move in on the first day. Approximately 900 applications remain to be approved or rejected. Many applications have been rejected by housing division officials for various reasons, mainly because the applicants were making too much money to be eligible or because there was no need for change in housing.

The project has also resulted in considerable benefit to the city, McAllister said, with $98,000 being spent for streets, relocating of a main line sewer, sidewalks and other general improvements.

A majority of the 300 families selected are composed of "the better-class of household servants," McAllister said. Preference will be given servants of this type to reduce and eliminate the carrying of disease into the homes of those employing servants. McAllister said the intention of the housing for negroes was to improve general health conditions in the city by providing housing for servants and employes of that general nature, within certain salary ranges, eliminating much of the transmission of disease from substandard housing to homes of employers.

McAllister said the renting of the 675 apartments in the project was progressing "better than we expected," and said the experience at Techwood, PWA-constructed units for white persons, had proved invaluable in the renting of the University project. One great difference is in the moving of tenants. At Techwood the first contingent numbered but 20, with a gradual increase. This was found to be disadvantageous, and as a result the occupation of the University Homes will be a mass movement.

At Techwood, homes and apartments have been completely rented except for a few 6-room apartments, available for large families of five, six or seven persons, McAllister said. Applications are still being accepted for these units, he said, and they are expected to be filled shortly.

A majority of the first tenants selected have taken the larger apartments, McAllister said, families in general running larger than those at Techwood.

Forsyth, Ga., Advertiser
May 13, 1937

ATLANTA DEDICATES HOMES FOR NEGROES

PALATIAL TWO TO FIVE ROOM APARTMENTS COSTING $2,592,000 READY FOR NEGROES AT LOW RENT CHARGES

Atlanta, Ga.—Dedication exercises were held May 1 to celebrate completion of University Homes, the largest PWA housing division project to be completed in Atlanta and the second to be constructed. The exercises were conducted by the University Advisory Committee, H. A. Gray, director of housing for the Public Work Administration, was the principal speaker.

Late in 1933, when the federal government began its housing program, a group of Atlanta citizens submitted plans for a development for low income white families to be erected on a site occupied then almost entirely by Negro families. The housing division decided that projects should not displace families unless adequate provisions were made for re-housing. This meant that unless a similar project could be secured for Negroes in Atlanta another site would have to be selected for a white project.

It was not difficult to prove an even greater need for bettering the housing conditions of Negroes than of whites and citizens under the leadership of the late Dr. John Hope, president of Atlanta University, submitted recommendations for a low rent housing project for Negroes.

In looking for a site they turned to the old Beaver Dam Slide area. The Public Works Administration accepted the recommendations of the advisory committee and demolition of the houses on this site began in the fall of 1934.

The PWA erected 44 buildings containing 675 two, three, four and five room apartments and group houses at a cost of $2,592,000. Each dwelling is so constructed that it has a private entrance, adequate light and air in all rooms, hot and cold running water, and steam heat. Each kitchen is equipped with an electric range, electric refrigerator, combination sink and tub, and adequate cupboards. The best plumbing has been used.

The buildings occupy less than 20 per cent of the area, the remaining 80 per cent consists of landscaped terraces and playgrounds. Scattered through the project are 19 small play areas equipped with swings, slides and sand boxes. There is also one large play area, a basketball court, with swings and horizontal bars. In one of the buildings space has been provided for a day nursery and kindergarten. The administration building which houses the management office provides additional rooms for dentists as well as eight spaces that can be leased for stores.

Rents will permit Negroes earning as low as $8 per week to occupy these dwellings. The rent varies from $3.85 to $7.55 per week for a five-room group house. These prices include heat, and electricity for refrigeration, cooking and lighting. Nearly 900 applications have already been received. Of this number, 339 have been accepted, 220 have signed leases and 175 families have moved into the new apartments.

An additional experiment is being conducted in the management of this project by trained Negro personnel. The manager, Alonzo G. Moron, is a Phi Beta Kappa man from Brown University, who also holds an M.A. degree from the University of Pittsburgh. For several years he has been commissioner of public welfare in the Virgin Islands. A Negro engineer, Julius Alexander, is to supervise the maintenance of the buildings. The rest of the staff is made up of trained Negroes from Atlanta.

Columbus, Ga. News Record
June 4, 1937

To Dedicate New Flower Garden For Colored Tomorrow

The dedication and the presentation of the tract of land at Sixth avenue and Fourth street near the Porterdale cemetery and Memorial stadium, to the colored garden club for a community flower garden, will take place tomorrow afternoon at five o'clock.

The presentation will be made by Marshall Morton, city manager, in behalf of the city, and representing the city commissioners, and will be staged in the stadium.

A miniature flower garden will represent the planned garden. It will be presented to little Bessie Barker, the daughter of Sylvester and Helen Barker.

The Rev. J. S. Bryan, pastor of St. John A. M. E. church, will dedicate the garden.

The glee club of the CCC Harmony church will render spirituals and other selections.

The city officials will be present and all white friends are invited to attend.

The officers of the coored garden club are: Jas. M. C. Carter, president; Emma Grace, vice-president; Addie L. Barber, secretary; Minnie Williams, assistant secretary; Frances Crowder, treasurer; Samuel Sapp, business manager.

Atlanta Ga. News
July 30, 1937

Mr. Wilkes Developing Splendid Colored Section

"College Heights" Ideal Home Sites for Worthy Colored People Here

T-2-8-C

Mr. J. S. Wilkes, developer of "College Heights," a residential section for colored people has a page advertisement in this issue of the News calling attention to the advantages of this sub-division which is ideally located near the colored school and which is a really attractive place for homes for those who have an ambition to be home owners and he is making attractive offers to them by which they can pay for them almost like they pay rent. He has built several nice houses and sold them already and will build a number more. He will sell only to those who are worthy and good citizens and this fact has appealed to quite a number. The city has run streets through the property and is interested in making this a good dwelling place for the best element of the colored race and will lend every effort possible toward that end. The property, as stated, is near the colored school and close in and will appeal to those who wish to have permanent homes and with many conveniences.

Social Conditions, Improvement of -1937

Georgia.

Rural Institute Opens With 103 Enrolled

For the fifth consecutive year teachers in rural schools and others interested in rural school and community work met together at the Atlanta University Summer School yesterday at the opening of the annual institute for teachers in rural schools which is being held this year as in the past under the supervision of Benjamin F. Bullock teacher of rural education in the Atlanta University system. At yesterday's session 103 men and women, virtually all of them actively engaged in rural school work, were enrolled. The institute will continue for ten school days, concluding Friday, July 16. As a special lecturer at the institute for three days, beginning today, Miss Mabel Carney, associate professor of rural education, Teachers College, Columbia University, will participate.

At the opening session, Mr. Bullock speaking to the group compared the work of the rural teacher to that of the ministry and quoted the words of the prophet Esaias, which Jesus read in the synagogue:

"The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

With this text in mind, Mr. Bullock said: "If there is a group of people anywhere in the United States which can be classified as poor, and if there is a group of people anywhere in the United States who need the gospel of a better life preached to them, it certainly is the rural Negro of the South. This group of suffering humanity—the rural Negro—represents approximately 70 per cent of the Negro race in the South. Those who go out to minister to this group as rural teachers represent 75 per cent of the total Negro teachers of the South. Those who should fill the rural schools as pupils represent 74 per cent of the Negro children of school age in the South. The shortest terms, the poorest equipment, the poorest paid and the less prepared teachers found in all America are found among the rural Negroes of the South. The largest per cent and the largest number of children of school age not attending school even the poor schools they have are found among the rural Negroes of the South. If one teacher were added for every thirty Negro children of school age out of school in the rural areas of the South, there would be added, in round numbers, 35,000 Negro teachers. Are these facts not a challenge to the best efforts of the best minds that can be found in the race, or in the nation?"

Repeating the statement that the rural Negro is a diminishing asset, Mr. Bullock asked: "To what degree is a race making progress, if 70 per cent of the group is sliding backwards?"

The theme of the 1937 Rural Institute, the improvement of the rural community, was emphasized by Mr. Bullock when he pointed out that rural educators had failed to remove the conditions that make rural life in the South so unsatisfactory. Educators have failed, he said, to develop a love for and a faith in rural life on the part of those who have been well educated, and have failed to develop the rural community in keeping with the standards set up in the minds of the educated.

"Our schools have rescued many boys and girls from rural mudholes," he said, but we have left the mudholes there, which not only serve as a perpetual handicap to the rural boys and girls yet unborn, but serve as a repellent to those who have been educated. We educators need to catch up with the medical profession in that we should realize that prevention is better than cure. We must become more concerned about removing the mudholes from our rural communities than we are about removing rural boys and girls from these mudholes. In other words, our rural schools must take a more definite and active part in building a better community—better churches, schools and recreational centers, more beautiful homes with a healthy happy and prosperous people."

Sessions of the institute will be held each afternoon this week and next week from 2 to 4 o'clock in the Giles Hall assembly room. Visitors who wish to observe the work, listen to the lectures, and discussions are welcome.

IN APPRECIATION

To the Editor of The Telegraph:

I want to commend your papers on their broad policy of carrying the news generally and especially the news as it affects the Negro. Your papers are broad enough, fair enough and independent enough to not only carry the criminal and low type news affecting the Negro, but you invade the highest type of Negro life and get news therefrom and spread it across the pages of your very widely-read newspapers. I have followed the news through your papers for a number of years. There is found in your papers a wealth of truth which would, if followed, make old Macon a better place for us all to live in.

I want to especially laud your papers on carrying such news as "The Meeting of the National Negro Business League," which recently convened in Atlanta; "The Meeting of the National Negro Insurance Association," which recently met in Augusta and "The State Tri-Convention of the A. M. E. Church," which was held in Savannah. Such news as this helps to lift the veil of ignorance and remove the shackles of fear from Negro progress.

Any and all progress made by the Negro should be proudly published by the white papers for it was only the short space of two years more than our alloted life—three-score and ten years—that the Negro was led from the valley of darkness into the light of freedom after two hundred and forty-six years of marking time. We walked into a white civilization with thousands of years of development back of it but unequipped with the tools necessary to play any important part in its continued onward march. But thanks to your civilization for its help and indulgence; help, by paying us more than enough, for our labor, to eke out a bare existence, which surplus has been invested in progress; indulgence, by giving us a chance to enter into a field of competition with you along certain lines until we could gather strength for greater and bigger things. Negro progress not only helps the Negro to live a fuller life, but it helps to make him a more useful citizen in his community.

The Negro is trying to play his part well in the theater of life, but if some one else fails to get his cue the whole play will be marred.

I close with a poem dedicated to the Negro:

There is light beyond the darkness,
Joy beyond the present pain,
There is hope in God's great justice
And the Negro's rising brain;
Though the sunlight seems to linger
O'er the hilltops far away,
Yet the shadows bear the promise
Of a brighter coming day.

Atlanta. W. C. LEE, District Mgr., Atlanta Life Ins. Co.

Whites, Negroes Share in Checks

Old Age Assistance Proportionately Divided Here

Distribution of old age assistance checks to Bibb whites and Negroes is in almost exact proportion to the local population figures on the two races, it was learned yesterday.

Information came from Atlanta to the effect that 276 whites and 242 Negroes in the county received the checks when they were mailed out last.

Census figures for 1930, when the last official enumeration was made, show Bibb has a white population of 44,128 and a Negro population of 32,906.

The comparison in Atlanta was the first made between figures on old age assistance and population, it was reported.

Birmingham, Ala. Post
November 20, 1937

ATLANTA MAY TAKE OVER HOUSING UNITS

Plan Would Lower Rentals 25 Per Cent

By United Press.

ATLANTA, Nov. 20.—The City of Atlanta is planning to take over two large Federal housing projects here under long-term leases which may enable rent reductions approximating 25 per cent, city officials said today.

The two projects, Techwood, for whites, and University, for Negroes, were completed at a total cost of $5,900,000—$3,150,000 for Techwood and $2,750,000 for University. They were the first slum clearance jobs completed under the Public Works Administration's huge housing plan.

The city plans to lease the projects from the Government probably for 60 years. It can borrow up to 90 per cent of the total value of the projects from the $526,000,000 Wagner-Steagall appropriation.

The Government has announced it is seeking to lease all Federal housing projects as soon as possible to local authorities.

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Columbus, Ga. Ledger
June 18, 1937

CAMP FOR NEGRO GIRLS IS OPENED

St. Christopher Branch of the Girls Friendly Society opened a summer camp for its members on Monday, June 14, at the "Retreat," Chattahoochee county, Georgia. This organization is a part of the regular work of St. Christopher's Colored Episcopal Mission and the camp is under the direct supervision of the rector, Rev. A. A. Hewitt and his wife, assisted by active associates, L. V. Dade, E. V. Johnson, and C. E. Bryant.

The camp is sponsored and made possible by the Woman's Auxiliary of the Diocese of Atlanta and by the rector, the Rev. Harry G. Walker, and members of Trinity Episcopal church, Columbus.

TREATING THEM ALIKE

To the Editor of The Telegraph:

It takes time to adjust things to their proper proportion so I will not too harshly criticise the idea of giving one aged person more than another. I do want to know the reasoning though of the board whose duty it is to investigate the cases and report them.

In law we are all "supposed" to stand equal before it. In the home for the poor I presume all share alike. In wealth or in poverty, be we white, black or red, before the throne of God we are to receive the same consideration, so I say of earthly things that we propose to do gratis for earthly creatures beyond a certain age, we do equally and justly.

To argue that some have become used to more than others by previous ability to rise above the average is even in death, to establish "class" which we claim does not exist under our system of government, which is supposed to be democratic, so let's carry it to a logical conclusion and treat all of the old folks alike. The fact that some have never had enough to make them comfortable is almighty good reason that should they be able with the little we can divide with them, be at least made comfortable, even though it might be a little at the expense of those who have had just a little touch of "earthly heaven" in the past. I believe that a true spirit of the Redeemer who might have in the past, fared better than the sister or brother of yesteryears, would willingly say, "I am of they, take care of us alike." Let's reward all of the aged agreed upon alike, be he prince or pauper, red, white, blue, black or yellow.

"OLD SI."

Macon.

Macon, Ga., News
October 16, 1937

Meanwhile White Workers Under McKibben Lane Are Obtaining Subscriptions

Negroes are lining up their forces to help with the Community Chest campaign which entered its second day this morning.

Last night F. Spencer Holdcroft, Chest executive, Miss Annie Moore Daughtry, head of the welfare department and Mrs. E. H. Strickland, YWCA executive, met with Frank Hutchings and a group of his workers at his office.

The latter is chairman of the Negro division and reported that he has appointed six captains who will choose in turn as many workers as they need to solicit their areas. He said they will begin soliciting Monday and hope to "beat last year's record of raising $1,000."

"I want to call on all of our people to help in this worthy work," said Hutchings. "Some of our people cannot give much but every little bit will help. It is their duty to do what they can because they will benefit from the results."

Workers to Meet

He said all of his workers will meet at the Hutchings Funeral Home on Cotton avenue at 6 o'clock Tuesday and that he will submit a report of their work the following day to Mr. Holdcroft.

Meanwhile white workers, under the leadership of V. McKibben Lane, general chairman of the drive, went seriously after subscriptions today. They began yesterday morning and will make the first report at a noon meeting Monday at the Hotel Dempsey. The drive continues through Oct. 25 and the goal is for $82,625.

During the campaign headquarters is on the Dempsey mezzaine floor. Regular Community Chest offices are in the Georgia Casualty building.

Workers are presenting each subscriber with a small red feather which can be worn in the hats or on the coat to show he has helped.

Social Conditions, Improvement of - 1937 Illinois.

Chicago Slum Clearance May Hit Snag

By WILLIAM PICKENS

The local housing commission of Chicago, under recent legislation of federal government, has organized and bought land for Negro re-housing on south side, from 137th to 139th streets and from South Parkway to Cottage Grove avenue—a very large area. Already the old houses are being torn down. The former home of Oscar DePriest was in this area on South Parkway.

The former land-owners have all been given their money for their property, and we presume that the housing commission has proceeded to borrow the necessary amount from the New Deal. All the people who have been moved out of this vast area are seeking homes elsewhere, so that the prices of rooms and dwellings have been going up,—at least temporarily.

BUT the white people of Chicago have waked up to a fight on this project. Why? Because they do not intend for Negroes to stay in this area; they mean to "reclaim" it for white people, for it is the very best part of Chicago for fine dwellings—like Harlem in New York. As long as the Negroes had it on their own and on shoestrings tied to heavy mortgages, white Chicago was content, knowing that it was only a question of a few formalities for them to take it back and move the Negroes when it suited white Chicago's convenience. But now that the government is backing a vast rehousing proposition for Negroes, these whites feel sure that it will be that much more difficult, or expensive, for them to oust Negroes from new and modern dwellings built to last for some generations at least.

They do not feel that whites will want to take places AFTER the Negroes, leaving the same houses standing,—and therefore they did not want NEW houses built. It would have been simpler to take over the old houses, just as this semi-government commission is doing,—when white financial and real estate interests got good and ready to take them over. Therefore these financial interests are in a dilemma, and will do their best to put a stop to this thing, although most of the old property is already cleared away. Perhaps they will influence the commission not to build, until they can build for white tenants. How this will affect the money borrowed from Uncle Sam we are not able to say.

Another alternative would be to let the commission go ahead and build, but build for white tenants now, but white people would hardly want to move into this area until the great Negro masses surrounding it were moved away. They do not contemplate, with American prejudice, a happy existence as a white island in a great black sea.

What will the white financial interests, real estate speculators and white home-seekers do now? They will do their darndest you can be sure. Any trick within the limits of economic sanity will be used. They may decide that it is worth while to take over the property even at the losses that will be entailed from advanced stage towards reconstruction.

Race prejudice is certainly an expensive luxury, or a wasteful nuisance. The New Deal ought to do something about it.

Chicago Asks Nothing For South Side Housing Unit

The South Parkway housing project, Thirty-ninth and South Parkway, may be turned into a football field, judging from reports that came from Washington last Wednesday.

Or it may stand as a devastated area to prove the destructive power of present day man when he runs wild with sledge hammer and crowbar on slums of dwellings housing people who have no other territory to flee to.

We Want Water

Thirty million dollars was released in Washington Monday by the government to build homes for people in eight cities. Chicago wasn't even mentioned when the money was being passed out. It wants a "Lake to Gulf Waterway," and is more interested in having more water come into the city than it is in building homes for its black population that is now living like sardines in a can.

Administrator Nathan Straus of the federal housing authority has announced the tentative earmarking of the $30,500,000 of housing for eight cities making applications for funds.

Chicago received no share of the 300 million dollars the authority is empowered to expend in the next 18 months under the Wagner-Steagall act, which created the federal unit. Mr. Straus said so far as he knew, Chicago has made no application for funds.

Where Money Goes

Grants were made to the following cities: Pittsburgh, Pa., $10,000,000; Bridgeport, Conn., $3,360,000; Syracuse, N. Y., $2,500,000; Jacksonville, Fla.; $1,000,000; Columbus, O., $1,500,000; Detroit, Mich., $10,000,000; East St. Louis, Ill., $1,500,000, and Annapolis, Md., $400,000.

The suggestion has been made that the South Parkway project be turned into a trailer camp site or visiting tourists, since there is no danger of it ever becoming a housing project under federal authority, and there seems to be no one in the city eager to make application for loans to complete this project.

City Must Act

"Chicago above all cities should make application for a loan," said a prominent officer connected with the housing authority in Washington, "but we are powerless to do anything unless the authorities there make formal application. I cannot understand why Chicago secured funds to house its white population when its black population is thousands of homes short, and they make no attempt whatsoever to relieve the situation. Do colored people vote in Chicago?"

The reference to voting by the commentator was taken to mean if those in political power were uninterested in the welfare of the Race, a day at the polls may serve to get the required application before the housing administrator.

As matters now stand, Chicagoans on the South Side may have to rent tents, and petition the city to let them pitch some on the South Parkway "bungled-up" project.

CHICAGO TO GET SLUM PROJECT

Federal Homes Will House 1,700 Families

START SOON

CHICAGO—(A N P)—The United States Housing authority Thursday informed John R. Fugard, chairman of the Chicago Housing authority, that 16,000,000 had been tentatively granted Chicago for its slum clearance program of which $10,000,000 would be used immediately to construct the long delayed and bitterly fought Southside housing project to accommodate between 1,500 and 1,700 Negro families. Another ten per cent, or $1,000,000, must be defrayed by local interests.

"Our major consideration in view of the new allotment from Washington must be for residents in the distressed area of the Southside where insanitary dilapidated buildings abound," Mr. Fugard said. "When we have care for this slum condition, we shall employ the balance of the money on additional projects."

Ninety per cent of the ground, which fronts for a quarter mile on South Parkway, the main Negro residential street, from 37th to 39th streets, and for a half mile from South Parkway to Cottage Grove, has been acquired, the tenants ousted, and is about half cleared off by WPA workers. Legal obstacles exist in acquiring the remaining ten per cent but they are not serious. Plans call for the construction of certain units of the project and acquisition of the rest of the property whenever available.

Money once before was appropriated in Washington for building the project, but powerful white realty interests bordering on the community waged a bitter legal fight and delayed construction so long that funds were shunted to other work. Southsiders have organized to combat this attitude. It was announced the original project will be restudied in the light of the experience of the past two years.

Illinois.

Social Conditions, Improvement of -1937

A. L. Foster Tells White Ministers Race Plight

Courier

CHICAGO, Dec. 23—"Theoretically, of course, the Negro has a right to a job, but practically, he has the greatest difficulty getting one when jobs are scarce. He is the last to be hired and the first to be fired—and that simply on account of color—is the almost universal experience of Negroes" declared A. L. Foster, executive secretary of the Chicago Urban League, in speaking to the Union Ministers' (white) meeting recently.

12-25-37

The dire consequences of this situation in the personal and social life of Negroes were also effectively set forth by Mr. Foster. Dr. Martin Mays Bickham, of the labor relatoins department of WPA, bore out Mr. Foster's statement, but told how WPA attempted to avoid all racial discrimination in administering its program. Miss Muriel Lester, of Kingsley Hall Settlement, also spoke. She declined to comment on the American situation, but pointed out how British racial discrimination in India and other parts of the empire had ultimately brought disaster to those who had shown such discrimination.

Social Conditions, Improvement of-1937 Indiana.

Lockefield Will

Offer Complete Social Program

Lokefield Garden Apartments, side from housing some twenty-two hundred people, will also sponsor a complete social program.

In front of each apartment building there will be provided play areas for the pre-school children of the tenants. These areas will be equipped with sand boxes and swings. Combined with School No. 24 playground will be a larger play area equipped with swings, sliding boards, sand boxes, horizontal bars and teeters. These play areas will be supervised by receational workers.

Four assembly rooms and eight club rooms completely furnished will also be available for use of the tenants.

In addition to these recreational facilities. Lockefield Garens presents opportunities for adult education, kindergarten classes, and home economic classes supervised by home economic experts. Lionel F. Artis, Housing Manager, states that Lockefield Gardens, in sponsoring the program, is anxious to cooperate in any way possible with the existing social or ganizations in the city.

Lockefield Garden offers 748 units. To day, 802 applications have been received. Trained social workers are visiting the homes of these people, establishing their eligibility under the terms of the "George Healy Act" which regulates the rules of occupancy in connection with the PWA Housing Program.

The project is rapidly nearing completion. The landscaping has been accepted by the Government and a maintenance crew of local men have been employed. At present, the contractor is concentrating on the interior decorating of the apartment. Applications are still being accepted at the temporary office located at 802 Indiana avenue.

INDIANA GOVERNOR HONORS DR. TALLEY

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., June 24.—Appointment of the Rev. Marshall A. Talley, pastor of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church, as a member of the State Public Welfare Board, was announced last Tuesday by Gov. M. Clifford Townsend.

The Rev. Mr. Talley will take theh place left vacant by the resignation of Victor O'Shaughnessy of Lawrenceburg.

The Rev. Mr. Talley is a former member of the State Wefare Committee of Pennsylvania, having served on it from 1923 to 1925. He is a member of the executive committee of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, the executive committee of the Indianapolis Church Federation, the executive committee of the Indiana Council of Christian Education, and is religious education secretary of the National Baptist Convention. He conducted a settlement center in Homestead, Pa. He was a member of the Indiana House of Representatives during the 1937 session of the General Assembly and was author of an act for character training in penal and correctional institutions and citizenship training in schools.

He is a graduate of Johnson C. Smith University at Charlotte, N. C., is married, and has three children. He lives at 470 W. Fall Creek Boulvard.

PROJECT FOR INDIANA IS UNREADY

No Occupancy Until Indefinite Time In Future

FIND DEFECTS

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—(A N P)—Lockfield Gardens, the federal government's $4,000,000 housing project built for Negro families, is costing $35,000 monthly and is still untenanted although finished several months ago. And it will be until at least spring before the first families move in, due to repairs being made on units damaged by wind and rain, the result of inadequate construction.

To further complicate matters, whites are bringing pressure to bear to force turning over half of the project to that race. When appropriations were made for Lockefield Gardens, whites did not care for a housing project, but since its erection, they have changed their minds. If they win out, those apartments facing on one street will be rented to Negroes while those facing on the parallel street a block away will have white tenants. The project, incidentally, is headed by Lionel M. Artist, formerly on the staff of the local Negro YMCA branch.

High Expenditure

The huge expense of $35,000 monthly without a penny of revenue comes, to a large extent, from the enforced and prolonged vacancy. If the homes were tenanted, rents would bring in an estimated $20,000 monthly. Contractor's expense, including temporary heat, watchman service, fire insurance, maintenance and other service is about $10,000 a month.

Meanwhile, the management branch is maintained at quarters outside the project until the staff can take over active direction. This accounts for $2,500 monthly, while other personnel used during construction and still being retained, is estimated at $3,000 monthly.

Opening Date Undecided

Construction was begun July, 1935, and it was intended to have the homes tenanted several months ago. But before they were opened, brickwork in every one of the 24 buildings that cover 22 acres of ground caused a delay. It is not known as yet when the 748 apartments will be occupied.

On November 1, caulking of these cracks under federal supervision began and continued until several days ago when severe cold weather called a halt. It is believed caulking will not be finished until spring. Estimates place these cracks at a total of eight miles in length.

Disappointing Work

Water enters through these cracks and penetrates plaster, ceilings and floors. This has resulted in loosening of plaster, discolored walls and ceilings, bleeding paint, buckled floors, warped doors, buckled linoleum and other damage. As long ago as summer of 1936, water was noticed coming through the walls and was called to the government's attention, but nothing was done about it until November of this year, although each ensuing rain brought similar leakage.

Lately federal representatives have been experimenting with waterproof paint on plaster, evidently to stop further leaks and eradicate discoloration.

Blames Government

According to Leon Joyce, white, masonry contractor for the project, the government has itself to blame for the existing condition. He said the wall would be watertight if the "usual breathing space" between bricks and blocks had been filled with mortar. But specifications called for solid construction and federal inspectors refused to depart from this.

"Granting that caulking the building stops leaks, the government will still have to spend about $20,000 more to waterproof them," he said. "The outside walls can be waterproofed with a colorless preparation which can be sprayed on pneumatically."

No Waterproofing!

At present, according to Joyce, construction is such that "a 30 mile an hour wind can blow a driving rain through it in 13 minutes." If waterproofed, the buildings would last a century, he believes.

A month ago the project was examined by the Mason Contractors association which reported to federal officials that workmanship is "of the best and far above the average," and declared cracking and chipping lay in the combination of materials used and lack of proper design for use of these materials.

The homes were constructed by the N. P. Severin company of Chicago which has done a considerable amount of construction for the government in many cities. This company has turned in an extensive report on the cracked brickwork and its resultant effects on interiors.

Social Conditions, Improvement of - 1937

Kentucky

Louisville Center Of National Tragedy

By DAVID W. KELLUM
(Staff Correspondent)

1. With the death toll having reached 105 and more than a half million persons homeless, America's greatest flood continued to sweep through Ohio and Kentucky as the populace waited for help. The Ohio river, fed by rain and snow is creeping farther and farther over areas that never before have been flooded.

2. Almost the entire populations of Louisville, Ky., and Cincinnati, Ohio, faced imminent danger from fire and disease as the American Red Cross struggled to get food supplies to the flood victims.

3. James T. Nicholson, president of the Chicago chapter of the American Red Cross said there will be no discrimination in the manner of the distribution of food and supplies to the refugees in the stricken flood area.

From Louisville

By LONNIE R. MOSS
(Staff Correspondent)

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Jan. 29—(Special)—The ugly specter of Race hatred has reared its head above the angry waters in the flood area, and this week finds thousands of our people, who were washed from their homes by the waters of the mighty Ohio river themselves its victims.

Jim Crow tactics are being used in the manner of housing the refugees and in many cases, the motor patrol boats are actually refusing to pick up members of the Race, leaving them to die in the flood.

In the refugee camps, hundreds of our people are huddled together like cattle and it is safe to say that before the flood waters have receded, many of them will have died

RACE HARD HIT AS FLOOD WATERS SWEEP MIDDLE WEST

From Louisville

(Continued from page 1)

as result either of exposure, the flu, pneumonia or typhoid.

Draw Color Bar

A section of the Jefferson Armory, in the heart of Louisville's downtown district has been set aside for "Colored Only." Cots have been furnished by the American Red Cross.

Although Red Cross officials say there will be no discrimination in the flood area, it is a known fact that those in charge here are drawing the color bar. They are giving the best of everything to the whites. On the other hand, medical treatment whites, Chinese, Mexicans and Filipinos.

The entire Race district is now under water. The flood has reached the second floor of the Allen hotel at 25th street and West Madison. Chestnut, Madison and Walnut streets, the main thoughfares in the district inhabited by our people are completely under water.

The Masonic Temple has thrown up the color bar. A call was issued Monday night asking that only white refugees be brought in. Three truck drivers were dismissed because they picked up members of the Race who were marooned on house tops.

Even in the rush to get to safety, the truck drivers refused to place Race refugees in trucks bearing whites. The situation is deplorable.

There is no sign of life in Louisville. All electric power has been drowned out and virtually all means of communications closed. The city's 330,000 residents, two thirds of them, have been driven from their homes by the rising waters of the mighty Ohio river.

There is no gas and most of the homes are without heat and food. Drinking water is running low and a warning has been issued to boil all water to prevent the contracting of typhoid. Hundreds are in the hospitals. The "Colored" ward of the City hospital is overcrowded and it has been necessary to add more beds in another Jim Crow section of the hospital.

Refuse to Aid Race

The radio patrol boats, which are manned by both police and volunteers all but ignore Race refugees and in many cases it is necessary to make four and five calls before the people are rescued.

Added to the already deplorable situation was the uncalled for shooting down of fifteen convicts in prison at Frankfort, Ky. The majority of the inmates were members of the Race and because they begged to be allowed to escape the onrush of the flood waters, they were shot down in cold blood.

The Jim Crow tactics used by those in charge of the radio patrol boats was so evident that radio announcers demanded that Race refugees be picked up immediately. Even the men, themselves were at a loss to know why it was necessary for so many of the calls to come in before the people were taken to safety.

In one case, there were eight hundred members of the Race marooned in a brick yard and it took four hours before they were picked up and just how many of them were drowned will not be known until the flood waters have receded.

Authorities are denying that Race prejudice exists in the flood area. They know that officials at Washington will not send relief to the flood area.

One city official told this correspondent that the reason why they were slow to pick up the colored persons was that they were waiting until they were in definite danger.

Disease a Menace

That the danger of disease is great was seen with word from Chicago that a plane load of vaccine, sufficient for 100,000 inoculations for sfallpox, typhoid and diptheria, was ready to start from there on order of Mayor Kelly and Dr. Herman N. Bundesen, health board president.

Moreover, inhabitants were so concerned that an estimated 125,000 of them had submitted to typhoid and other inoculations.

Already the rust-red, filth filled waters stood as high as thirty feet above some housetops! By the time the crest comes four more feet of water are expected to be boiling through streets that never had been covered by flood a before.

Trains were halted, highways were all-but-impassible, and the only communication facilities to the outside were short-wave radio and a single telegraph wire, operated off a gasoline motor.

Kentucky Negroes in Fight For Recognition

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Mar. — (Special to C. N. A.) By Lee O. Brown —In a recent meeting of the K. N. E. A. and other civic groups interested in the general welfare of the Negro people, the following 12 items were included in a request of Governor Chandler for recommendation to the next meeting of the Kentucky Legislature:

1. Participation in administration of old age pension. 2. Employment of Negroes on roads. 3. Participation in administration of school system. 4. Organization of a Negro unit of the Kentucky National Guard. 5. Participation in administration of various federal agencies (a) National Youth Administration., (b) adult education, (c) nursery school., (d) W. P. A. 6. Partition in adminisration of eleemosynary institutions. 7. Greater support for the two State Negro colleges. 8. Negro history in curriculum of Negro schools. 9. Participation in State Fair. 10. Participation in State Public Health Service. 11. Provisions for certain tpyes of needy women and girls (unmarried mothers, psychiatric cases). 12. Equal pay for equal work in all public services.

A committee was appointed to work with the Governorand aid in the program outlined.

Social Conditions, Improvement of - 1937

Louisiana

New Orleans, La., Times-Picayune
March 12, 1937

PROBLEM OF URBAN NEGRO DISCUSSED

Rural Background Added Handicap, Fisk Educator Declares

Discussing the problems attendant on the urbanization of rural negroes, Charles S. Johnson, director of the department of social science of Fisk university, Nashville, Tenn., addressed a meeting of the Council of Social Agencies Thursday afternoon at the auditorium of the New Orleans Public Service Inc. building.

He spoke on "The Rural Background of the Negro as an Element in the Urban Problems Which He Faces," a subject in connection with which he has done much research. Mrs. John G. Pratt, president of the council, presided.

Pointing out that there is an excess in social disorder in urban life for the negro as compared with that in rural life, such as family disorder, illiteracy, increase in crime and a higher death rate, Johnson asserted that he believed the difference between the negro and other races in these respects is due to cultural and social rather than organic differences.

"The problems growing out of rapid urbanization affect the white as well as the negro," he said, "but the shock is much greater to the negro. He finds it necessary to get a new set of values in this new life. This is true in the case of the immigrant, but gradually through generations the immigrant merges his background with that of American population in general, but the negro remains the negro, identifiable by his color and features. He is more isolated from the general current of American life than the immigrant."

"The problems in rural setting are controlled by the necessities of life and the actual physical and institutional surroundings," he said. "In the movement of the negro from rural into urban life he has a carry-over of habits which are fixed around definite social values and it is necessary in the new setting to acquire new values and a new outlook."

Social Conditions, Improvement of-1937 Michigan. 6

First Negro Welfare Supervisor Of Relief Appointed In Detroit

DETROIT, Mich., —(ANP) — Mrs. Beulah T. Whitby has been appointed supervisor of the Alfred District of the local welfare organization. This is the first time a colored woman has had the distinction or receiving such an appointment in Detroit. Mrs. Whitby is one of the best known civic and welfare workers in the community and is popular among Detroiters. That fact, however, has not served to dissipate an apprehension on the part of some forces of segregation, because the district will be composed of all colored workers.

Since its inception, the district eighty per cent of whose clients are colored, has been commanded by a white woman. There were two white case workers under her who, it is reported, were transferred to other districts when Mrs. Whitby took charge.

Detroit Probe Ruled Illegal

BULLETIN

DETROIT — The senate special investigation committee, headed by Senator Charles C. Diggs, which has been investigating the social and economic conditions of colored people in Detroit, ceased to function Tuesday when an opinion handed down by Attorney-General Raymond W. Starr declared the committee and all other investigating committees illegal.

Social Conditions, Improvement of -1937

Mississippi.

"Niggers All Work on de Mississippi"

Under such a caption the Daily Oklahoman Wednesday morning displayed three Negroes, with chains on their feet, stumbling down the perilous, shaking Mississippi levee, near Memphis, with heavy sacks of sand on their shoulders. The Oklahoman failed to state that these Negroes were victims of the Mississippi long before the mighty stream rose to flood tide.

The Oklahoman editors might have projected their outlook to also advise in its Wednesday morning edition that the billions of dollars lost in property in the wake of America's greatest calamity, with its additional loss in human lives, can also be attributed to the fact that "niggers all work on de Mississippi."

The present devastating flood aptly illustrates the philosophy of Booker T. Washington, who said:

> "No man can hold another man down in the ditch without finally getting down into the ditch himself."

The Black Dispatch has for several years pointed out that what America needs is flood prevention rather than flood control, and wise statesmen and engineers, not contaminated by the southern graft system which has been built up around the levees, have warned that scientific and effective flood prevention could only obtain through the building of reservoirs, dams and other methods of control at the source of rivers.

But there still is pitted today against free labor in America the slave economy of the South. Today, just as the Oklahoman implies in its attempt at being funny, the Negro, whose brawn and muscle is pictured as the bulwark against the howling flood, is the exploited human being down on the lower reaches of the Father of Waters. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People made an exhaustive study of the deplorable conditions existing in levee camps down South several years ago. It was pointed out that in many of the states thousands of Negroes are worked in levee camps for a wage of 50c per day, and that amount has been methodically taken away from the helpless economic slave in cut-throat commissaries owned by the scoundrels who pay the unconscionable wage.

Out of the levee system and its attendant slave system has grown up a system of graft which reaches out to grasp federal engineers. It causes them to say the reservoir system of flood prevention is impractical. It is readily understood that flood prevention would start in states where men get a living wage and if successful, the "niggers" who "work on de Mississippi" could not be exploited and southern levee contractors would cease to wax fat as the result of juicy government contracts and legalized peonage.

As the years have rolled along, gradually the bed of the Mississippi and all flood controlled streams have by the levee system been lifted above the fertile valleys through which they pass. The silt and residue coming from the hills have caused this. Everyone knows this, who has discourse to reason; but, because the Southland still clings to slave economy, still exploits the Negro, we continue to follow the course which has brought China its major disaster and chaos.

No cartoonist could better portray the major misfortune of the Mississippi valley today than in the picture displayed on the front page of the Daily Oklahoman. In that picture one can see how easy it was for Nero to fiddle while Rome burned. For instance, in one column we find the management of the Daily Oklahoman frantically calling for financial assistance in this tragic hour in American life, and in another column climbing to the heights of faceteousness and ridicule of the very cause of the calamity.

The Daily Oklahoman and the citizens of Oklahoma City cannot get approval of, and federal aid for, reservoirs on Wolf Creek and other points on the North Canadian river, to protect Oklahoma City from disastrous floods because of the conspiracy that exists down South to keep "niggers" at "work on de Mississippi." This is the stark, naked truth. Those chains on the legs of men, victims of "hirelings bonds," may cause mirth among the puerile, but in reality those same chains and the system of which they are a token, are the basic cause of the billions of property loss and human suffering which knows no race or color.

A reservoir system, which would hold in ponds, lakes, dams and other obstructions the rainfall in the hill country, would mean much to that section of America called the "dust bowl." It would raise the water level during the summer months and increase the humidity within this area. One can almost raise a crop on dews, something becoming increasingly rare in our rapidly growing aridity. The old argument of the levee contractors and their boodle-grabbing engineers that the reservoir system would cost too much, falls into the discard when one remembers the billions of dollars lost in the present flood. What could we build to hold back the water in the hills with five billion dollars? To increase the humidity is to increase the rainfall. To dispose of dust storms is to eliminate the most destructive type of soil erosion, but we cannot indulge in these experiments because a long time ago we started making money out of cheap Negro labor down in Mississippi Louisiana, Arkansas and Tennessee. We can't stop grafting long enough to save America.

The picture we have drawn here is one that may be drawn everywhere in American life where prejudice raises its ugly head. Every evil has within itself the seeds of its own destruction. There will be white people who read these lines assuming that we have overdrawn the picture, but regardless of their view, all must agree that something is obviously wrong with our objectivity. Surely we are drifting in the wrong direction. Why have more than a million people suddenly become homeless and helpless? Why is there stubborn resistance in the South to the reservoir system up in the country where free men live?

Yes, the "niggers are working on de Mississippi" and "Ole Man River" has been for the past three weeks work-

ing on some other parties whose faces are not black. Well, when a man goes crazy, he's the last person to find it out.

Greenville, Miss., Democrat Times
November 1, 1937

COLORED PEOPLE AND RED CROSS

We attended an interesting meeting Sunday afternoon in the Mercy Seat Baptist Church, on Redbud Street, pastored by Rev. L. J. Jordan. Probably a hundred persons were present—many of them leaders of the colored race.

Mrs. Thompson, state field representative, and Mrs Edna Bell Spencer, executive secretary of the Washington County Chapter, Red Cross, and the writer made an appeal for support of the Red Cross in the present campaign of enrollment. There was undivided attention and interest in the cause. The pastor and his audience were most sympathetic with the plans. They are appreciative of the work the Red Chross has done for this section of the Mississippi Delta—for the colored people in Greenville.

In this group was a great influence among the colored people. Men and women in the meeting, whose word and advice is accepted and appreciated. They have promised their support of the present Red Cross roll call.

There are about 40,000 colored people in Washington County. Not a large per cent of them are in position to give anything to the Red Cross or any other institution but there are more able to give today than a year ago, or five or ten years ago. There are more who feel their responsibility toward the care of the underprivileged. There are more who feel an interest in the better things of life as they respond more and more to education. There are more who feel a pride in having done things worth while for the suffering or the underprivileged or the unfortunate. There are more who feel the appreciation of what has been done for them or their neighbors in the past.

We believe the Red Cross will enroll the largest number of colored members this year in Washington County in its history. We believe that pride and a sense of duty, more keenly felt this year than ever before, will be the principal cause. We have a superior colored race to what we had even a year ago, in Greenville This was shown by their interest in the high water fight last winter and in their splendid support of the clean-up and home improvement campaign last spring.

Social Conditions, Improvement of - 1937 -Missouri.

Gov. Starks Names Negro Commission

4-16-37

JEFFERSON CITY.— Two Kansas Citians, Dr. Lon M. Tillman and Willis G. Mosley, were named by Governor Lloyd B. Stark on the commission for the advancement of Negroes the appointment of which was recently authorized by the legislature.

Others on the commission are Frank L. Williams, and Joseph L. McLemore of St. Louis, Dr. W. R. Arthur of South Kinloch, Mo., Edgar Goins of Cape Girardeau and Thomas J. R. Wilson of Jefferson City.

The creation of this commission was recommended by Governor Stark in his inaugural address. The group will make a survey of the economic, industrial, educational and civic needs of the Negroes

COMMISSION ON NEGROES HAS MEETING

4-23-37

Kansas City, Mo

Make Assignments for Study of Economic, Educational, Civic Needs

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.—The commission appointed by Governor Lloyd C. Stark to make a study of the economic, industrial, educational and civic needs of the Negroes of Missouri held its first meeting Saturday, April 17, in the senate lounge of the capitol building.

Frank L. Williams of St. Louis, chairman, president. W. G. Mosely of Kansas City, secretary, read the paragraph from Governor Stark's inaugural address asking the legislature for power to appoint the commission. He then read the senate concurrent resolution No. 8 creating the commission.

Assignments Made

The following sectional assignments were made:

Agriculture: Arthur Foster of Caruthersville and Edgar Goins of Cape Girardeau.

Health and sanitation: Dr. Lon M. Tillmon of Kansas City and Dr. W. R. Arthur of St Louis county.

Civic and political: Joseph L McLemore of St. Louis and Thomas J. R. Wilson of Jefferson City.

Industrial: S. O. Gordon of Richmond.

Educational and economic: Frank L. Williams of St. Louis and W. G. Mosely of Kansas City.

The secretary was instructed to address a letter to all civic, industrial, business, agricultural, educational and medical organizations asking for suggestion or helpful information.

The commission will hold its next meeting in the municipal auditorium, St. Louis, board of directors' room, Saturday, May 1, at 1 p. m. — entrance from Fourteenth street side.

On Saturday, May 8, the commission will meet at Caruthersville.

SURVEY BODY IS MEETING ON SATURDAY

Cash

Negroes Expecting Much Following Sessions in St. Louis

5-7-37

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During the open meeting it was learned that the Negroes of Missouri are looking forward to and anticipating some very tangible results from the appointment of these men on the commission.

Cite Pay, Boonville Conditions

Especially interesting was an appeal made by the national, state and local presidents of the Missouri Association of Colored Women's clubs who gave some very important information and made a request that something be done immediately to alleviate the allegedly distressing conditions now in existence at the state reformatory at Boonville, Mo. In this group were Miss Arsania Williams and Mrs. Mildred Anthony.

Prof. Zaid Lenoir of Vashon high school insisted that some action be taken toward the equalization of the salaries of Negro and white teachers in the rural sections of Missouri as provided for by the state laws.

Dr. George Sneed, a former native of Columbia, Mo., who is now practicing dentistry in South Kinloch Park, told of some of the dental needs of the racial group and offered some worthwhile suggestions. Dr. Sneed is also a member of the Kinloch city council.

J. Wilkerson, one of the outstanding citizens of St. Louis, who has devoted considerable time to the study of the rights of Negroes and other citizens, presented some valuable data that should be of much aid to the commission in its work.

Editor J. E. Mitchell of the Argus was also among the speakers.

Considerable interest centered around the suggestions of Dr. J. E. White, chairman of the continuation committee of Negro health week.

Health Work Stressed

In a review of the work of his group, Dr. White pointed out that, in recent weeks, negotiations with the Secretary of Interior's office and with the state officials of Missouri were successful in getting approval for the establishment of a recreational camp for Negroes on the Cuivre river, a 5,000 acre federal project which has been set up and is being maintained by the federal government for recreational purposes in this state.

Dr. White stated that, because of the interest aroused that this committee has in the establishment of camps for Negroes, they were able to get two Negro representatives on the council, which is a committee appointed to work out and supervise plans for the establishment of various camps in this area.

Illinois Has System

In the conference with the state commission, Dr. White asserted that much could be done to correct health conditions among the racial group in the same kind of a program as adopted in this state as is carried out in other states, especially Illinois.

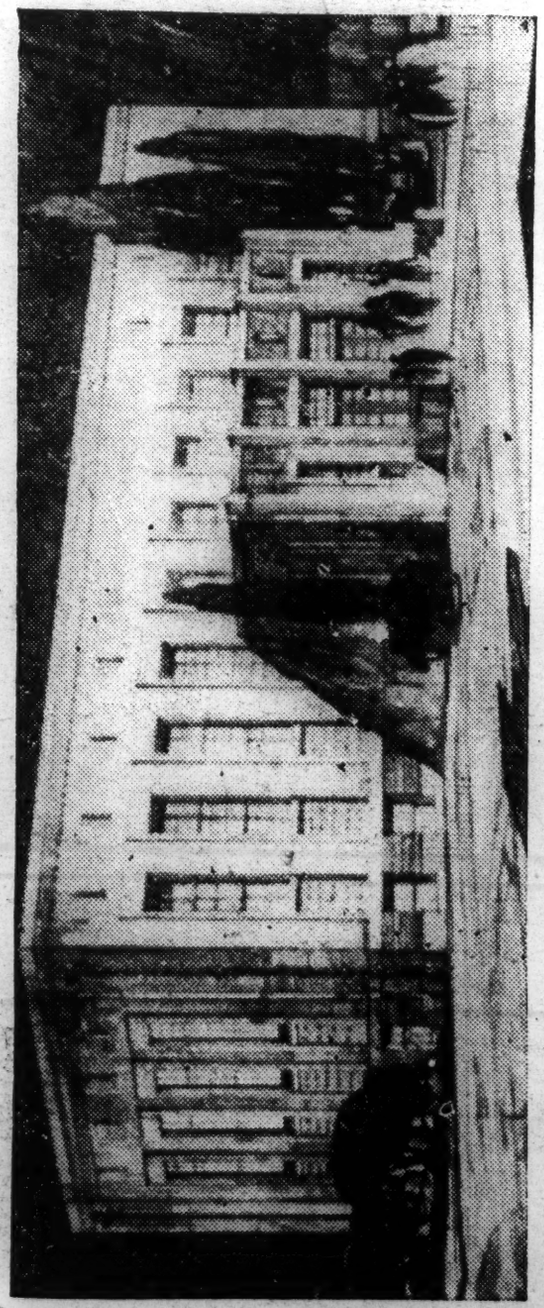
"In Illinois," Dr. White said, "the state department of public health has appointed a district health superintendent, Dr. Robert D. Beverly, who is a Negro. According to a report submitted by Dr. Beverly, from January 1934 to August 1936, a great advancement was made in the correction of many evils and increasing a higher standard of living with a decrease of mortality due to the health and educational campaign which has been carried on in that state under the supervision of Dr. Beverly."

Dr. White said that he felt that the work and success of the continuation committee on Negro health has amply justified its existence and continuation and expressed the belief and hope that the work of this continuation committee will be more affective in the future and will become a recognized authority on all matters pertaining to Negro health not only in St. Louis but throughout the state.

Kansas City, Mo.

5-21-37

$70,000 CENTER TO HAVE FORMAL OPENING THIS FRIDAY



The new $70,000 Vashon Community Center at Compton avenue and Market street will be formally opened to the public this Friday with a public dance from 7:30 to 11:30 p. m. Superintendent Robert D. Turner has announced.

The staff of the new building will be expanded as fast as time and space permit.

The center will be opened daily, except Sunday, from 2:00 until 10 o'clock p. m. Children will be given the afternoon hours, while children above 12 years and adults will have the evening hours.

Jane Hemingway, instructor, and Manuel Champion, custodian, will be in charge of children's activities.

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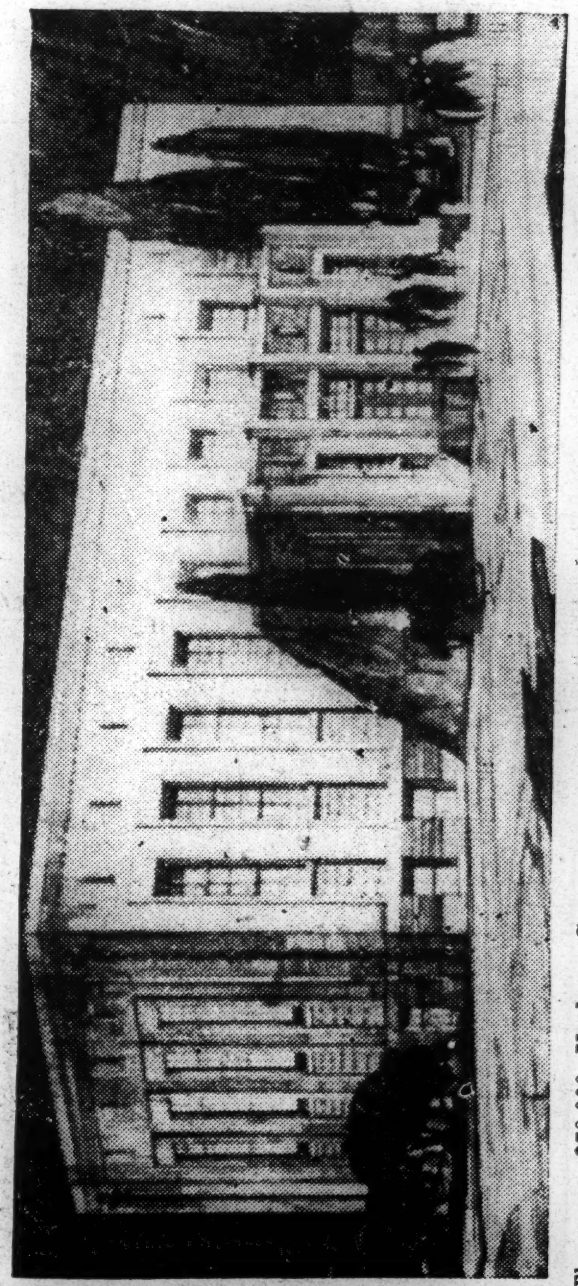

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Mildred P. Franklin, directress; Jane Hemmingway, instructor and Manuel Champion, custodian.

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MINN. NEGROES STUNNED BY RESIGNATION OF SOCIAL WORKER

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Oct. 28.—(ANP)—Miss W. Gertrude Brown, Head Resident of Phyllis Wheatley Settlement House in Minneapolis for the past 13 years has resigned her post to become effective November 1st.

Minnesota and particularly Minneapolis and St. Paul, were bewildered and stunned at the news that their friend, benefactor and leader for such a long time, has decided to leave them for other fields of endeavor. Through Miss Brown's efforts the status of the northside community where the house is located has been changed from one of very ordinary proportions to one of outstanding importance with its $100,000 settlement in the midst of the new PWA Housing Project.

Negroes feel her departure jeopardizes the status of colored citizens of the city to an inestimable extent, and have circulated petitions under the direction of the Minnesota Negro Council asking that she reconsider her move and decide to return at the end of her six months leave of absence which the Board has accorded her in recognition of her long service to the development of the house. In accepting her resignation the Board passed a resolution regretting her action most sincerely.

The Council outlined her activities in their petition, and stated: "We feel that Minneapolis cannot afford to lose this individual who gained the prestige of being nominated to the Court of Honor as an outstanding woman who has contributed toward the achievements of Minnesota women during Women's Week Exposition in Minneapolis. (The only Negro so honored). She was selected as America's representative to the Women's International Peace Conference in Dublin, Ireland, by Miss Jane Addams; she is a member of the Minneapolis Interracial Commission, Urban League Board, Twin City Federation of Settlements; a member of the United States Constitutional Sesquicentennial Committee for the City of Minneapolis, a member of the Advisory Board for the PWA Federal Housing Project.

"The possibility of her definite departure jeopardizes the status of colored citizens of the state, and we feel that all possible effort should be exerted so we may not lose the services of one who has built up a $100,000 institution, who has acted as arbiter in every controversy of the minority group, and whose activities in interracial matters cannot be replaced."

In order to secure a cross section of the sentiment of the community the Council circulated petitions which were signed by over 1800 persons urging that Miss Brown return to Minneapolis at the expiration of her well-earned six months' leave of absence. The name of Miss W. Gertrude Brown has become synonomous with Phyllis Wheatley House, and the name of Miss Brown has stood for progress generally among Negroes and whites in Minnesota. A banquet is being given in her honor November 4th, at the University of Minnesota Union by the citizens of the Twin Cities to be followed by an Open House Reception at the Settlement House. Many of her friends from out of the state will attend.

Social Conditions, Improvement of—1937

National Urban League.

URBAN LEAGUE EXPANDS ITS WORK

New York, Feb. 22—The 26th annual meeting of the National Urban League was held on Wednesday, February 10, at the 1133 Broadway. L. Hollingsworth Jones, chairman of the executive board, presided.

Eugene Kinckle Jones, executive secretary, in his report of the work of the league for the year 1936 declared that sentiment in the South toward an interracial effort had grown rapidly in the last year and that as a result branches of the league were being organized in Birmingham, Memphis, Little Rock, and New Orleans. A significant factor in the growth of this sentiment was Negro participation in the Texas Centennial Exposition. Mr. Jones, who acted as chairman of the Advisory Committee for Negro Participation, reported that over half of the 423,227 visitors to the Hall of Negro Life were white people, for the most part from the South. Intensive work in vocational guidance for Negro is now being carried on by the Industrial Department of the league, the report discloses and three additional fellowships were granted to Negro college graduates for study in social work.

The following persons were elected to the executive board for a term of three years: Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, Robert L. Vann, Lloyd Garrison, Mrs. Henry G. Leach, Mrs. B. B. Munford, Mrs. Albert S. Reed, Dr. E. P. Roberts, Miss Elizabeth Eastman, Miss Dorothy Straus, Miss Elizabeth Walton, Mrs. George W. Seligman, L. Hollingsworth Wood, P. B. Young and Judge Joseph N. Ulman.

The officers of the league elected for one year were: L. Hollingsworth Wood, president; Dr. Robert R. Moton, vice president; Lloyd Garrison, vice president; C. C. Spaulding, vice president; Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, vice president; William H. Baldwin, secretary; Charles Poletti, treasurer; and Miss Dorothy Straus, assistant treasurer.

NAME LESTER P. GRANGER STAFF'S HEAD

To Hold Hearings in All Sections of N. Y. State

With plans to hold hearings wherever large numbers of Negroes live, the New York State Commission on the Condition of the Urban Colored Population got its machinery in running condition Tuesday morning, and appointed Lester P. Granger, director of the Workers' Bureau of the National Urban League, as executive director.

At the same session, held in its permanent quarters at 130 West Forty-fourth street, Dean S. Yarborough, who was recently liason officer in the ERA, was selected as research director, while Dr. Lewis Mayers, professor of the School of Commerce of the College of the City of New York, was named director of legal research and counsel.

The commission was authorized by the 1937 session of the State Legislature, as the result of a bill introduced by Assemblyman Herbert Brownell, Republican, of the Tenth Assembly District. Governor Lehman favored it from the beginning and signed it readily.

To Report Next Year.

The commission is to study into all the varied social, economic and educational conditions and problems of the Negro citizens of the state and report to the Legislature in March, 1938.

Several applicants for position with the commission were interviewed some days ago by a subcommittee of the commission—Harold F. Herman, assemblyman, of Nassau, chairman; William T. Andrews, assemblman, of the Twenty-first A. D., vice-chairman; Robert W. Justice, assemblyman, of the Nineteenth A. D., and Attorney Francis Rivers. The selections for staff positions were made unanimously, declared Mr. Herman.

Mr. Granger is a graduate of Dartmouth College and has done postgraduate work at the New York School of Social Work, the University of Southern California and Dana University, Newark. He has served as industrial secretary of branches of the Urban League in Newark and Los Angeles, and is active in both the National Negro Congress and the American Legion.

Staff Men Capable.

Mr. Yarborough holds the bachelor's degree from Miles Memorial College and the master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh. He has filled secretaryships with both the Brooklyn Urban League and the branch in Warren, Ohio, and has made several important research studies.

Prof. Mayers has served on several government bodies since he was admitted to the bar in 1915. He has been an examiner for the Board of Estimate and for the Civil Service Commission, and was a member of the Governor's Reconstruction Commission following the World War. He was once editor of the Institute for Government Research, and he holds the doctor of philosophy degree from Columbia University.

Group Non-Partisan.

"This commission is non-partisan and will make a thorough investigation," the chairman promises, "and will hold public hearings throughout the state in those places where there is a sizeable colored population. This commission will work for the accomplishment of some practical things for the benefit of the colored population of the state."

Other members of the commission are the Rev. Michael Mulvoy, pastor of St. Mark's Roman Catholic Church, secretary; Walter J. Mahoney, state senator from Buffalo; John J. Howard, senator from Brooklyn; Leon A. Fischel, 42 West Seventy-sixth street, senator; the Rev. John H. Johnson, vicar of St Mark's Episcopal Church; Mrs Elizabeth Ross Haynes, Democratic co-leader of the Twenty-first Assembly District, and Harry R. Stern 20 Pine street. Messrs. Stern, Mahoney and Howard were not present at Monday's meeting.

LESTER B. GRANGER, Director of the Workers' Councils of the National Urban League, who was named executive director of the Joint Legislative Commission of New York State, which will inquire into the economic, cultural, health, and living conditions of the urban Negroes of New York State.

Dean S. Yarborough was named research director and Lewis Mayers, white, professor of law at City College, was named counsel. The three will present a program for consideration to the full commission at a meeting Friday. Assemblyman Harold P. Herman is chairman of the commission.

Social Conditions, Improvement of -1937 New Jersey

Ch'rch Women Discuss Negro At Conference

ASBURY PARK, N. J.—"The Negroes, a Typical Group Caught in the Urban Process" was the subject up for a day's discussion at the annual meeting of the Home Mission Council and the National Conference of the city church.

Among those who addressed the conference were Miss Lucy D. Slowe, Dean of Women of Howard University, who spoke on: "Problems that Confront Women and Girls." Miss Slowe observed that "We need to be more aware of what is happening in our cities to this group of colored people, so largely exposed to the impersonal forces of urban life, so frequently set apart from the rst of the community and so often not even thought of in the community planning."

The Rev. Horatio F. Hill, director of the Baptist Negro Educational center in Harlem, spoke on "How May a Negro Keep up His Spirit." He declared that the racial situation today is at its worse since the Civil War. He urged the councils to support programs for slum clearance, better hospitilization facilities, increased employment representation and institutional accommodation for colored children brought before juvinile courts.

He said: "As long as Negro physicians are denied the opportunity of practicing in public tax supported hospitals; as long as there is only one hospital held available for every 2,000 Negroes in this country as compared with one for every 150 white people; as long as there is discrimination is employment based solely on the color of the skin; as long as such a large proportion of Negro church leaders remained untrained and as long as Negroes are forced to live in slums, the Negro will need some magic touch to help him sing the Lord's song in his own land.

The colored speakers urged that groups of church women inspect the living conditions of colored women in the lowest economic class and seek higher wages for colored men so that their wives may properly care for their homes.

Jersey 'Overseers' Treat Negro Needy According To Whims

Some Get "Pork Chops" While Others Get Less Than Whites "Because They Are Healthier On Cheap, Coarse Food."

TRENTON, N. J., April 1.—(ANP)—What Negro jobless and hungry get to eat in this state depends entirely on the whims and beliefs of township and municipal poor overseers since New Jersey's experiment of a year in making relief purely a local project.

Comparison of food budgets in various sections of New Jersey reveals that one overseer gives the whites more than Negro families on the ground that colored "are healthier when fed coarse, cheap food."

This, however, is in direct contrast with an overseer in another locality. He feeds Negroes pork chops "because they're used to them and ought to have them."

Since relief is left at the discretion of these overseers, who need only to be "able to read and to write, keep simple records and have sufficient knowledge of the poor laws to satisfy the officials of local government in which he serves," according to the State laws, there are many hardships worked on the impoverished.

In one community, the overseer keeps a vicious police dog in his fenced-in- front yard to dissuade the community's poor of all races from too many requests. Of course, unless they make requests, they get nothing.

Relief in much better in cities above 10,000 population, where family budgets as highh as $31 a month are provided, but in the smaller areas the figure drops to as low as $5 monthly.

Threaten to Send Negroes on Relief Back to South

Newark Relief Officials Drop Hundreds from Rolls and Threaten Them with 'Deportation'—Two Cases Cited

NEWARK, N. J., Sept. 30.—In a desperate effort to reduce relief rolls, the City Relief Administration is dropping hundreds of Negroes from the rolls and threatening them with deportation to the South in spite of the fact that Mrs. Dunstan has resided in Newark since 1932 supporting herself and children by domestic work and that she has received relief for nearly a year. Judge Carl Duvenack ordered Mrs. Dunstan to be out of Newark by Sept. 27. "If you don't go back South, we'll press a charge against you," he threatened. In the meantime, the Workers Alliance of America secured the service of Attorney Solomon Golat, who took legal measures against the threatened deportation of Mrs. Dunstan. On Aug. 29 Mrs. Patricia Morgan was cut from the relief rolls three months ago and told to leave town although she was pregnant at the time. When she failed to leave Newark as ordered, she was hailed into Judge Duvenack's court and charged with "vagrancy." Frightened by the police and unfamiliar with legal terms, Mrs. Morgan pleaded guilty thinking the judge had charged her with "pregnancy." Thereupon she was sentenced to 90 days in the filthy city jail. When the W.A.A. tried to appeal the case, the judge set the exorbitant bail of $2,000, although pressure by the Alliance forced the police to transfer her to the city hospital. Meantime the Urban League and N. A. A. C. P. had been aroused by the case and together with the W.A.A. they forced Judge Duvenack to grant a rehearing. Mrs. Morgan, in the meantime, has been released in care of Attorney Samuel Rothbart.

When the W.A.A. took the case before the city commissioners they referred it to the police department. There the investigation ceased, the police giving the excuse: "Judge Duvenack is on his vacation and can't be bothered." The Workers Alliance plans to press charges of neglect and malfeasance in office against Owen D. Malady, County Overseer of the Poor. All interested organizations plan to hold a joint mass meeting soon to protest this threatened wholesale deportation of Negroes to the South. Negro leaders of Newark hope that a council of the National Negro Congress will result from the mass meeting.

Social Conditions, Improvement of - 1937

New York.

$4,219,000 HOUSING GOES TO CITY TODAY

Federal Propect in Harlem to Be Formally Accepted at Ceremony in Gardens

SPACE FOR 574 FAMILIES

Part of PWA Investment to Be Repaid in 60 Years—Homes to Be Occupied in a Month

The $4,219,000 Federal housing project for Negroes, known as Harlem River Houses, will be turned over to New York City today, with ceremonies.

Within another month the structure will be open for occupancy by the 574 families selected out of 13,000 applicatns who satisfy the New York City Housing Authority that they need better housing and at the same time have sufficient dependable income to be able to pay the rent. 9-16-37

The Municipal Housing Authority, as management of Harlem River Houses, must collect rents which will repay 55 per cent of the $4,219,000 investment to the Federal Government in sixty years. The remaining 45 per cent is a grant forever, which brings the average rental down to $7 per room.

Yesterday, therefore, the selection of tenants remained one of the most delicate problems confronting the Housing Authority, which is to become lessor and agent for today. 9-17-37

Model Group of Walk-Ups

The attractions are manifold. In Harlem, where almost 300,000 Negroes are concentrated in two square miles, and where children play largely in the streets, the New York City Housing Authority is offering a model group of four and five story walk-ups, occupying only one-fifth of a former vacant area between 151st and 153d Street, from Macombs Place to the Harlem River.

Every room looks out at the sky and all have cross-ventilation. Kitchens have hot and cold water, a gas range, an electric refrigerator. There is a stainless tiled bathroom in every apartment. Garbage is thrown down a chute. Instead of a bcakyard there is a great central court, which is to be landscaped as a sunken garden, with two wading pools each as big as a house. Between the pools there is enough room for a platform on which several hundred guests will sit today when Mayor La Guardia witnesses the signature of Langdon W. Post, chairman of the New York City Housing Authority, on a one-year experimental lease to be signed for the Federal Government by Thomas Grey, director of the housing division of the Public Works Administration.

Although the investigation of applicants has been under way more than six months selection has not yet been completed by the Housing Authority. The Federal legal prescriptions together with the regulations added by the municipal management make it complicated.

Dogs and Lodgers Barred

Although a tenant must prove he is able to pay the rent, he is considered legally too rich to be admitted if his yearly income is more than five times the rental of the rooms he needs. Although large families receive preference, the management will not permit the sort of crowding or doubling-up to which Negroes in Harlem usually resort in order to meet the rent. Apartments may be occupied only by the number of persons for whom they were designed.

Similarly, the rent-paying lodgers who form a customary part in the domestic life of Harlem are barred. So are dogs. So are vermin. All 574 incoming families, no matter what their pretensions to good housekeeping elsewhere, must submit to complete fumigation of all their clothing and furniture at a plant temporarily installed in a near-by Transit Commission lot by the Department of Sanitation.

A primary requisite in the investigation of new tenants, according to the Housing Authority, is peaceableness. The project is designed for a social existence, with community laundries and driers, nurseries and playgrounds, where it is pointed out that a trouble-maker could make plenty of difficulty.

The rentals are to be: two rooms, $20.50 per month; three rooms, $22.54; four rooms, $26.00, and five rooms, $29.04. No single person will be allowed to rent. No family of more than seven can be accommodated.

Times Wide World Photo.

NEW LOW-RENT HOUSING PROJECT IN HARLEM WHICH WILL BE OPENED TODAY

A view of the building looking west from the pent house of Group 6 on 152d Street. Seventh Avenue is in the foreground. The structures at the left are Group 3 and at the right Group 2.

FEDERAL HOUSING
HAILED IN HARLEM.,
15,000 APPLICANTS

NEW YORK, June--(CNA)- Fifteen thousand families of congested Harlem begged Lady Luck this week for the boon of better housing conditions.

The odds were better than 26-to-1 against them, for only 574 families among the 15,000 applicants will be selected when occupants are chosen for the Federal-built $4,500,000 PWA housing project known as the Harlem River houses.

Crusader News Agency 6-21-37 New York, N.Y.

The lease transferring the buildings from PWA to the New York City Housing Authority was signed Wednesday afternoon at a gala ceremony in the great court of the project, at 153rd Street and Seventh Avenue.

Applicants for the apartments have been streaming into the Project offices, 2650 Seventh Avenue, for several days. They arrived with wistful expressions, and departed pretty much the same way, not knowing when the houses will be opened, and uncertain whether they will be among the "lucky" 574 to be chosen from the 15,000 applications on file.

They went in answer to letters from the Project offices, where Franklin O. Nichols, Negro resident manager, is in charge. They were to be interviewed - some re-interviewed - and were required to bring their entire families with them. Thus for several days long lines of husbands and wives - some with babes in arms - filed into the offices hoping that soon they would be able to move out of the slum areas of crowded Harlem.

Leaders in the community have hailed the project as a "step in the right direction," while pointing out that it is a "mere drop in the bucket" compared to the community-wide housing crisis in Harlem.

Such is the position of the Harlem Division of the Communist Party, expressed by Theodore Bassett, educational director of the division.

"What Harlem really needs is many more such projects so as to aid in solving the serious situation of the really poor people of the community. Such federal houses ought to have a low flat rate of, for example, $5.00 a room," Bassett stated. The Harlem River houses have an average rental of $7.00 per room which adds up to $8.42 a room with heat, electricity and gas.

A similar view was expressed by Donelan J. Phillips, president of the Consolidated Tenants League, 209 W. 125th Street, who said:

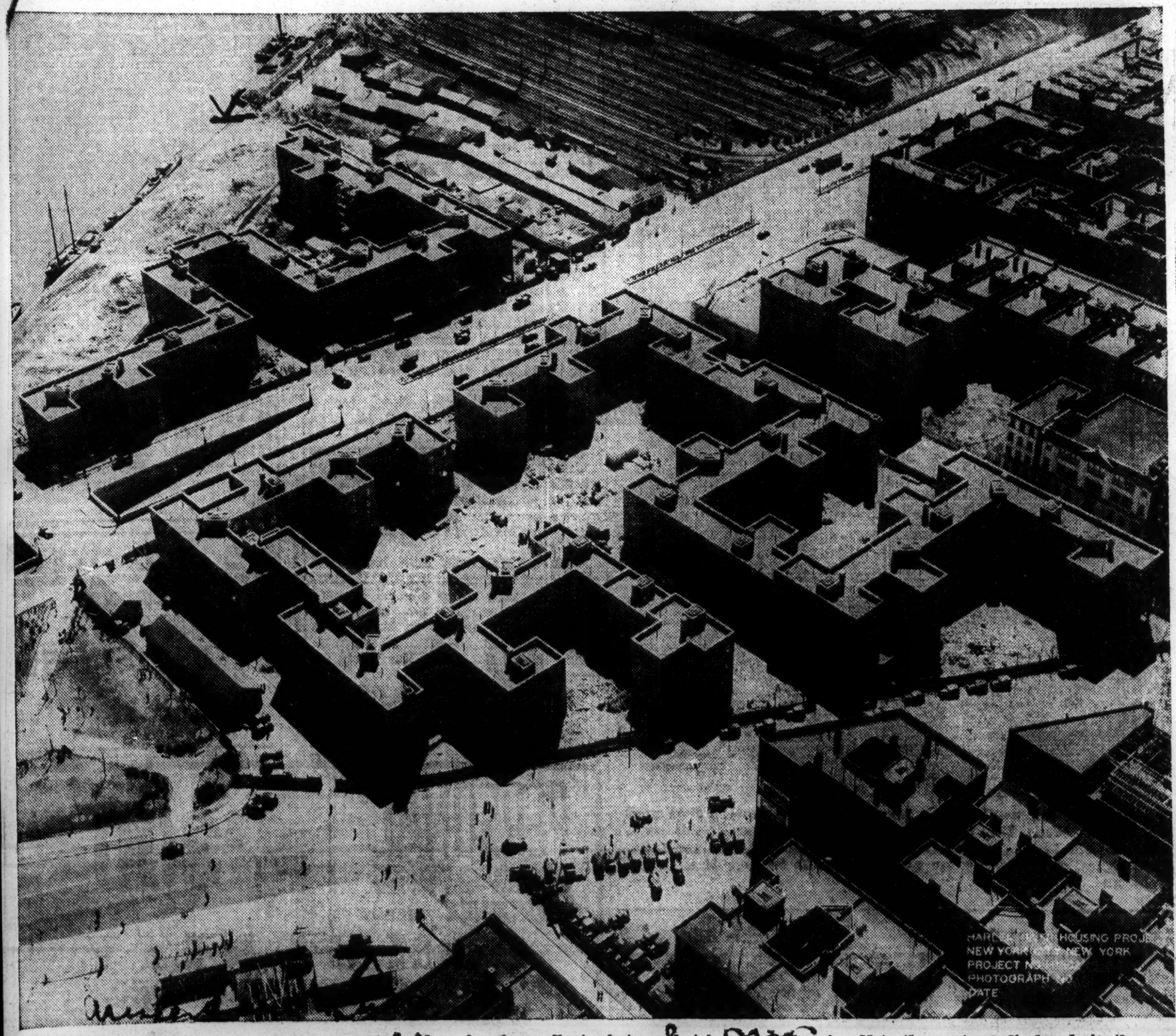
"Harlem River houses are a fine start, but only scratch the surface. We could use many more government projects and $5 or $6 a room rentals would be closer to our needs."

The houses are still considerably short of completion. The wiring has not been finished., doors, faucets and other necessary appurtenances are missing. Workmen are still busy about the premises which are not yet ready for visitors or applicants. No one in the Project offices would venture a prediction as to when they would open.

Social Conditions, Improvement of -1937

New York

Here's Air-Vue of Harlem River Houses



THE HARLEM RIVER HOUSES are shown here in an excellent photograph taken from the air. Note the contrast displayed—in the upper right is shown the famous Dunbar apartments, only a few short years ago Harlem's greatest housing project; in the center, the new Harlem River Houses, and, lower foreground, old-law tenements on McCombs place.

LIST FILLED AFTER MANY ARE REJECTED

Amsterdam News

Notables Are Present At Turning Over of Project

12-19-37

Before a huge audience, including Mayor LaGuardia, Senator Robert F. Wagner, Judge Charles E. Toney and officials of the Federal government, the Housing Division of the PWA officially transferred the Harlem River Houses under lease to the New York City Housing Authority at exercises held at the houses, 135th street and Macombs place, Wednesday afternoon.

Representing the Federal Government and taking the place of Harold H. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, who is lying ill in a hospital in Washington, was Howard Gray, director of the WPA, who officially gave the lease to Commissioner Langdon W. Post, chairman of the Municipal Housing Authority.

Meanwhile, the 574 families which will live in the houses, have been selected, The Amsterdam News learned exclusively Tuesday, and they will be so notified by the Housing Authority, Friday.

Commissioner Post was the chairman of the exercises, and Walter White, chairman of the Harlem River Houses Advisory Committee, was temporary chairman. Speakers at the ceremonies were Mayor LaGuardia, Senator Robert F. Wagner, Thomas Grey, director, Housing Division of the PWA, and Municipal Court Justice Charles E. Toney.

Commissioner Post, in explaining the method of selecting the tenants who will live in the low-rental housing development, said that they were selected on the bases of income and present residence. There were more than 12,000 applicants for the 574 apartments, he said, and 5,000 of them were found to be eligible after investigation.

The applicants whose yearly in-

comes were found to be more than five times the annual rental of the apartments for which they were eligible, based on the number in the families, were excluded according to Federal law. Those whose incomes were no more than four times the apartment rentals, or less, were also excluded.

The families which will live in the houses were chosen primarily from the depressed dwelling areas, it was stated. However, some families living in safe and sanitary tenements but who are expending 50 per cent or more of their income for rentals were also selected.

The band of the 369th Regiment, New York National Guard, played patriotic and other tunes at the exercises. After the ceremonies the public inspected three of the apartments, which had been furnished for that purpose. Tenants will move into the first unit of the houses in about a month, it was stated.

Tied up with the opening of the Harlem River Houses, the Consolidated Tenants' League held a three-day housing conference in the Little Theatre of the Y. M. C. A., 180 West 135th street, beginning on Monday and ending with a parade and mass meeting at Mother Zion A. M. E. Church on Wednesday.

Problem National.

"Housing is a nation-wide responbility,' declared B. M. Pettit, assistant director of Federal Housing in Washington, at Tuesday night's meeting.

"I don't believe particularly in Harlem or in any other part of the country. The problem of housing the people is a job which concerns all of the people in all of the cities."

Proposing the renovating of the many boarded-up houses in the area and making them fit for habitation, Reuben J. Wittstein, well-known attorney, said that the problem which confronts Harlem is an immediate one.

"I, for one, am willing to sit down with a group of representative citizens and see if we can't open up some of these boarded-up houses," he said. "If the landlords don't want to do it, let the city confiscate them and fix them up."

Challenging the people of Harlem to demand of their representatives in Washington the passage of the Wagner-Seagall Low-Rent Housing Bill, Mrs. F. Hope Bagger, president of the Parents' Association, declared that the responsibility of adequate housing lies with those who dwell in tenements.

Remember Battleships.

"If the government can find $160,000,000 to subsidize the building of battleships," she said, "certainly it can find $53,000,000 immediately to subsidize housing projects for the people of this country."

Speaking on the problems arising under housing laws, H. M. Prince, deputy commissioner of the Tenement house Department, said that if the people of this country were given proper housing with the money now being expended on battleships, jails and prisons would not be necessary.

Only One Drop.

"Those 574 apartments constituting the Harlem River Houses are just a drop in the bucket,' declared Charles Lynch, alderman of the Nineteenth Assembly district.

"We need houses immediately to relieve the deplorable housing conditions of Harlem. We need to open up the boarded-up houses."

Others who spoke at the sessions included Commissioner Langdon Post of the Tenement House Department, Henry K. Craft, Dr. William Llody Imes, Dr. Lorenzo H. King, Lester Granger, Mary K. Simkovitch, Mrs. Elizabeth Rose Haynes, Ira S. Robbins, Francis E. River and David Talbot.

Organizations co-operating with the Tenants' League to make the conference a success included the North Harlem Community Council, the local branch of the Y. M. C. A., the Negro Labor Committee, the National Housing Public Conference, St. Mark's M. E., Abyssinian Baptist, Mother Zion A. M. E. and St. James Presbyterian Churches.

DONATES $2,000

Urban League Receives Gift as Contribution for Budget

The New York Urban League announces a gift of $2,000 from the Davison fund, established by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., as a contribution to the general operating budget of the league for 1937.

In appealing for donations for vacation scholarships, the League's Fresh Air and Camp Committee, composed of Mrs. Joseph M. Proskauer, Mrs. Chester W. Chinn and Mrs. Arthur Hays Sulzberger, calls attention to the fact that many camps do not admit Negro children.

The committee has been successful in persuading a number of camp directors to accept Harlem children, but only on condition that the league provides scholarships which, in most cases, amount to $15 for the two weeks' period.

PLAN TO KEEP RACE IN SLUM AREA BEATEN

Chicago Urban League on Job Against

Jim-Crow

CHICAGO, Sept. 22 (ANP).—Attempts by renting office employees of the new Jane Addams federal housing project on the Westside to prevent Negroes from applying for apartments received a blow last week when orders allegedly came through from Washington banning discrimination.

Following protests by the Chicago Urban League and private citizens, Dewey R. Jones, assistant to Dr. R. C. Weaver, was sent from the nation's capital by the Department of the Interior to investigate conditions and report back to government officials. This is understood to be the basis for the order banning discrimination.

Complaints had been registered at the Urban league on the project, listed by the government as constructed for both white and colored. Negroes who had applied said they were told there were only 1,000 family units and already 2,500 applicants, therefore it was useless for them to apply.

They were told to seek residence in the Southside project which the office interviewers said was for "colored people." These homes have not been even started since there is at present no money available for construction, and should funds be obtained, it will be at least two years before they are ready for occupancy.

The league pointed out that the Jane Addams homes were built on a site from which many Negroes had been forced to move and these previous residents of the area were desirous of returning to the section. Washington housing authorities had also declared tenants would be taken on basis of need and not on race or religion, the league asserted.

Since the reported ruling of federal officials, the league has urged Negroes to apply for tenancy in not only the Jane Addams but the Trumbull Park and Julia Lathrop projects which are also nearing completion and if difficulties are found, persons are asked to contact the league.

HOUSING IN HARLEM

Whether the small amount of public housing and slum clearance already achieved in New York City is to be credited to Mayor La Guardia, Secretary Ickes, the depression or an old gentleman in Peoria, Ill., who for the present prefers to remain anonymous, may be a matter of dispute up to and including election day. Many of us believe that we should have seen much less accomplished in this field had it not been for the untiring devotion of Mr. La Guardia, and are therefore not disposed to take Mr. Mahoney's invidious comments on the local housing program too solemnly.

Regardless of what has been done, a vast deal remains to be done. The situation among the Negro population of Harlem, as described by Chairman Harold P. Herman of the Temporary Commission on the Condition of the Urban Colored Population, calls for attention. An average monthly rental of $30.39 out of an average monthly income of $76.86, which is what Mr. Herman's committee found in a sampling of 1,980 colored families, means dire poverty and overcrowding. It is of little use to rail at the landlords who, like most people with things to sell, charge the rate that will yield the most profit. The problem of housing in Harlem needs to be attacked from all quarters—by subsidized housing, which is possible under the Wagner-Steagall act, by the encouragement of cooperatives, by limited dividend corporations in the moderate income groups. Moreover, the city's interests require a stabilization of real estate values which cannot be obtained in rental property which is running downhill.

Our colored population is, of course, not alone in its housing needs. For reasons inherent in the history of its migrations it merely happens to have been harder hit than most of the rest of us. It has made its way in New York City against heavy obstacles and has contributed its quota of good citizenship to our melting-pot. We must give it the consideration it deserves when we go forward, as we must ultimately do, with a metropolitan housing plan.

Social Conditions, Improvement of-1937. New York

T. A. Hill Appointed to Social Welfare Board

NEW YORK—The appointment of T. Arnold Hill, director of Industrial Relations of the National Urban League, to the State Board of Social Welfare for a term expiring July 1, 1940, has been announced by the State of New York Department of Social Welfare.

Scott to Tell of Bill At Tenants' Meeting

Measure in Congress Would Provide Dwellings at $5 Per Room, Financed by Taxing Rich, Available Only to the Poor

Ten million new homes at $5 per room a month for 10,000,000 American families.

If the national housing bill (H.R. 4292) introduced into Congress by Representative Byron N. Scott of California is passed, that plan to provide decent homes for workers with low incomes will be an actuality by 1947.

Tonight a nation-wide campaign to enact this vast housing program to wipe out slums in America will be launched at a New York tenants' mass meeting at Washington Irving High School, E. 16th St. and Irving Pl.

Rep. Scott, making his first public appearance in New York City, will be the main speaker at the rally.

GREETED BY TENANTS

The progressive congressman from the West Coast was given a rousing reception by a large delegation of tenants groups backing his plan when he arrived at Penn Station yesterday.

Tenants organizations including the City Wide Tenants Council and other groups are enthusiastically backing his plan which would restrict tenancy in the 10,000,000 home housing units to those earning less than $1,500 annually. Union labor would be used in construction work and necessary finances would be raised by taking large incomes and corporate profits.

His plan will be discussed tonight by two other prominent speakers—former Representative Vito Marcantonio and Tenement House Commissioner Langdon W. Post.

"Federal action to provide low-rent housing is an immediate necessity," Rep. Scott said on his arrival yesterday.

PROGRAM A SOCIAL NECESSITY

"We cannot stand by idly and see one out of every three citizens in the world's richest country housed under conditions described by the government itself as below minimum standards of decency.

"Housing experts agree that at least 10,000,000 new dwelling units must be provided in America during the next 10 years. They must be provided at rentals within the reach of the lowest economic classes.

"The bill which I have introduced into the House of Representatives would provide 10,000,000 homes at rents not to exceed $5 per room per month. These dwellings would be built and operated by local housing authorities with Federal grants up to 85 per cent of the total cost.

"A program of this kind is a social necessity. It would wipe out the slums, which are our costliest luxury; it would put millions to work!

"Such a program can only become a reality if an aroused public sentiment insists upon it."

Scott on Radio 3 Times Today

Representative Byron N. Scott of California, sponsor of the Federal housing program to build 10,000,000 low-renting homes, will speak in three radio broadcasts over New York stations today.

The young progressive Congressman will speak over Station WMCA at 2:15 p. m., Station WYNC at 4 p. m., and Station WEVD at 8:45 p. m.

Blames Bigotry for New York's Relief Problem

Sociologist Warns Against Economic Discrimination.

PUBLIC UTILITIES CALLED OFFENDERS

Collective Ownership Suggested.

NEW YORK. — About one-half of Harlem's population was on relief rolls in September, 1935, forced there by economic discrimination, said Dr. E. Franklin Frazier, Howard University sociology professor and director of the surveys of the Mayor's Harlem Commission, Saturday.

Dr. Frazier was speaking on "Harlem: A Symbol of Race Conflict" before 150 persons attending an Institute on Human Relations held by the Society for Ethical Culture in the Hotel Astor.

Discussing some of the findings of the commission's survey in Harlem, Dr. Frazier pointed out that "labor unions have a policy of discrimination aganist the colored man."

Denied Employment

He took as another example of discrimination the public utilities, where thousands of workers are employed, but which, he said, virtually exclude the colored worker.

As a result of that discrimination, he said, in September, 1935, there were 42.3 per cent of all colored families in Harlem on relief, and, counting single men, about half the Harlem population.

Dr. Frazier declared that the colored group's economic problem is basically the same as that of all labor in the city, adding that "some day the colored man may wake up in Harlem and realize that through collective ownership he has a better chance of emuloyment."

Sidney Lake, principal of the Industrial High School for Boys, Fifth Avenue and 138th Street, said that industry should be moved into Harlem, making the colored population there economically independent. Walter White, NAACP secretary, also spoke.

TO STUDY THE NEGRO

THE FIRST STEP TOWARD improving the economic condition of the Negro in the Empire State was taken last week when the Assembly passed by unanimous vote the bill of Assemblyman Herbert A. Brownell creating a temporary commission to recommend measures to improve the ecnomic, cultural, health and living condition of the Negro.

The commission will be composed of three Senators and two other persons to be appointed by Senator Dunnigan, Democratic leader; three Assemblymen and two other persons to be named by Speaker Heck of the Assembly, and three to be appointed by the Governor, two of whom shall be Negroes. The commission would submit its report to the 1938 Legislature by March 1. The bill carries an appropriation of $30,000.

Credit for the introduction of this bill is due the Republican State chairman along with its sponsor Assemblyman Brownell, as a part of the program of the G. O. P. to bring a squarer deal to the black man. Lasting good can result from the proposed survey if facts are adduced on discrimination in industry and definite steps are taken to put an end to such tactics on the part of both capi-tal and organized labor.

A step in the right direction is the admission that there is discrimination against the Negro and desire to remove the causes. We hope that Governor Lehman will sign this bill when it comes before him and also that experienced and competent Negroes will be appointed to represent the Negro by the Governor.

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Much of the material dug up by the Mayor's Commission investigating the Harlem

White Girl Reared By Race Woman Gets Best

NEW YORK, May 21—(Special)—Healthy and every bit happy, a six-year-old white girl Lucy Peluso, who is being reared by Mrs. Serena Alves, a member of the Race, has just celebrated her birthday. Since she was two years of age, the child has been in Mrs. Alves' home and has received only the best from her adopted mother.

Proudly displaying an adoption certificate, Mrs. Alves told a **Chicago Defender** reporter that the period of four years she has had the white child was proof enough that members of the Race made just as good parents as whites.

Parents Give Her Child

Mrs. Alves took a slap at white neighbors who had opposed very strenuously to having the Court of Domestic Relations grant her the custody of the child whose parents, because of their destitute circumstances had turned the child over to Mr. and Mrs. Alves.

The white neighbors on West 28th street had complained about the Race family rearing the child, invoking an old health ordinance. Undisturbed by the undue publicity and refusing to listen to the prejudiced whites, Justice Wise Tulin, at a final hearing six months ago in Domestic Relations court, decided that Lucy could stay with the Alves.

Mrs. Alves said the child, under her personal supervision, was just about the smartest in the block. "I teach her myself, and she's teaching all the other boys and girls writing," the foster mother proudly boasted.

Little Lucy has 150 dresses of all colors and socks to match, besides Mrs. Alves says when Lucy has grown up she plans to send her to an Eastern finishing school.

The court's decision to grant Mrs. Tulin the custody of the child recalls the famous Marjorie Delbert case in Chicago many years ago, when after a Race woman had been allowed to adopt a white child and had reared it for a period of eight years juvenile authorities took it away from her.

Attorney Richard E. Westbrooks, Chicago lawyer who at the time was associated with the late Attorney James G. Carter in discussing both the New York case and that of former years, said that he was glad to know that times had changed to the extent that race prejudice is not so exacting when the matter of rearing a child is involved, be the child black or white.

Five Negroes On Board of Eleven For Racial Survey

ALBANY, N. Y.—Governor Herbert H. Lehman on Thursday announced the selection of the additional members of the temporary State Commission to study problems of New York's urban Negro population. The Governor's selections include: The Rev. John H. Johnson, vicar of St. Martin's Episcopal Mission of New York City; the Rev. Fr. Michael Mulvoy, pastor of St. Mark's Catholic Church of New York; and Golden B. Darby of Syracuse, executive secretary of the Dunbar Association.

The Commission was authorized by the last session of the State Legislature and eight of its members have been selected by the Speaker of the House and President Pro Tem of the Senate. Those appointed by the speaker were: Assemblymen Harold Herman, William T. Andrews, Robert W. Justice, Henry Root Stern and Former Assemblyman Francis E. Rivers. The President of the Senate named State Senators Mahoney, John J. Howard and Leon A. Fischel.

Five of the eleven members of the Commission are Negroes—Messrs. Andrews, Rivers, Justice, Johnson and Darby. There is no salary attached to the job but $30,000 was appropriated for the expenses necessary in the making of a survey which will be submitted to the Governor at the next session of the Legislature.

Gov. Lehman Names Group To Study Issues

ALBANY, N. Y.— The Rev. John H. Johnson, rector of St. Martin's Episcopal Church, New York City, and the Rev. Michael Francis Mulvey, pastor of St. Mark's Catholic Church, New York City, with Golden B. Darby of Syracuse, N. Y., executive secretary of the Dunbar Association, were named by Governor Lehman as members of the temporary New York State commission to investigate and recommend measures to improve the economic, cultural, health and living conditions of urban Negro populations of the state.

LEHMAN SIGNS BILL TO PROBE NEGRO PLIGHT

13 - Man Commission to Study Race's Conditions

The Brownell Bill, which provides a thirteen-man commission to study the status and problems of Negroes of the State, was signed this week by Governor Lehman, the ceremony taking place in the executive offices, Albany, on Thursday, at 12:30 p.m.

With $35,000 appropriated, the commission will pay attention, especially, to the economic condition of Negroes, their living conditions, their ability to get jobs, and their general social conditions. While many studies have been made of New York City Negroes, little has been done in regards to those scattered throughout the several other counties.

Assemblymen William T. Andrews and Robert W. Justice, and Senator Duncan O'Brien, legislators from Harlem districts, saw the bill signed. Assemblyman Herbert Brownell, Jr., who introduced the bill, could not be present, as he is travelling in Europe.

The Assembly will appoint five members of the commission, three of whom will be assemblymen and two non-members; and the Senate will also name five, in the same proportion. The governor will name three members, two of whom, as provided by the bill must be Negroes.

The commission is to begin work immediately and report to the Legislature by March 1, 1938. The presiding officers of each of the houses will name the members selected by the Senate and Assembly, respectively. It is expected that the entirely personnel of the commission will be known within a few days.

N.A.A.C.P. Scores Housing Project's Moving Monopoly

New tenants for the Harlem River Houses, the government-built low cost housing project just opened here are discovering that when they move in they must use one certain moving firm and no other, according to the N.A.A.C.P.

In the long and complicated agreement which tenants must sign is a provision that the New York Housing Authority will attend to the moving of tenants. No money is paid the movers by tenants, all the transaction being done by the Authority. One firm of white downtown movers handles all the business. There is a routine through which all tenants must go. The furniture to be moved is inventoried and then moved to a fumigating plant by the transfer company. It remains there a full half day. It is then put in the new apartment, but the family has to allow it to remain there a full day before moving in and arranging it. This means the family must find a place to stay for a night and a day while they are being moved from their old home to the new.

Harlem moving men are up in arms over the monopoly and in response to the complaints the N. A.A.C.P. has sent a letter of protest to Langdon W. Post, chairman of the city housing authority, which has the Harlem River Houses on lease from the government.

It is estimated that the total volume of business for moving in the 574 families will be around $15,000 and Harlem express companies cannot understand why they cannot get some of this business. Many prospective tenants also have asked to use their own moving men.

The Harlem Movers' Association through Rev. Gerald Hamilton, president, and Henry P. Williams, secretary, in addition to the protest sent by the N. A. A. C. P., also wrote Commissioner Langdon Post who is reported to have replied that tenants of the Harlem River Housing Project are not compelled to use the white moving concern that the Housing Authority has selected.

A call to the office of Franklin Nichols, manger of the Harlem River Houses, for information elicited the response that the Housing Authority had charge of all arrangements. From the Housing Authority, The Age was referred back to Mr. Nichols' office for the information, it being said there that he (Mr. Nichols) was in complete charge.

As The Age went to press, attempts to get in touch with Mr. Nichols were unsuccessful.

On Survey

An addition was made to the Brownell commission for the study of the social and economic conditions of the Negroes in New York state recently, when Governor Herbert H. Lehman named Elizabeth Ross Haynes, 411 Convent avenue to it. Mrs. Haynes is the only woman on the commission.

Co-leader of the Twenty-first Assembly District, of which Herbert L. Bruce is leader, Mrs. Haynes was designated to her new position by the Governor shortly after The Amsterdam News published a letter from one of its readers, requesting a woman member of the commission.

Mrs. Haynes was elected several months ago to the executive committee of the old age pension section of the Welfare Council of New York City. And she was recently appointed a member of Mrs. Vincent Astor's Committee on Women's Participation in the World's Fair.

Mrs. Haynes went on an airplane flight of this committee given by the Western Airways over the city and the World's Fair grounds there two weeks ago.

Social Conditions, Improvement of-1937

New York.

TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS
CONFRONTING NEGRO

NEW YORK, Oct.--(CNA)- Social and economic problems of the Negro will be discussed at a two-day session to be held by the New York State Conference on Negro Welfare under the auspices of the Thirty-eighth Annual New York State Conference on Social Work which will meet here Oct. 19 through Oct. 22, with headquarters at the Hotel Pennsylvania.

Crusader News Agency

10-18-37

The two main topics of the Negro conference will be "Job Expansion and the Negro Worker," and "Community Resources and the Negro Citizen." Speakers will include Lester B. Granger, secretary of the Workers' Bureau of the National Urban League., Laurence A. Oxley, Field Representative, United States Employment Service., Carita Hoone, manager of the Harlem Office, New York State Employment Service., T. Arnold Hill of the State Board of Social Welfare, Ira A. Reid, of the Social Security Board, Washington., Mabel Staupers, Executive Secretary of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses., Henry K. Craft, Executive Secretary of the Harlem YMCA., and Eduard Lindeman, of the New York School of Social Work.

New York Age

Over 4,000 Negro and white social workers are expected to participate in the main conference. They will be welcomed by Mayor La Guardia at a mass meeting at the Manhattan Opera House, Monday and will hear addresses by Governor Lehman, WPA Administrator Harry L. Hopkins and others.

The Real Reasons For Harlem Poverty

10-14-37

• The New York State Temporary Commission on the Condition of the Urban Colored Population has made a promising start in getting at the roots of the poverty and jim-crow misery in which the Negro people of Harlem are forced to live.

In making public its tentative findings yesterday, Lester B. Granger, Negro executive director of the Commission, hit the nail on the head when he named unemployment and the "intolerable housing" situation as the main causes of Harlem's shameful living conditions. The fact that these evils have been long known doesn't make the situation any less of a life-and-death matter.

Some of the conditions cited by the Commission are almost unbelievable. The Negro people of Harlem are almost 80 per cent unemployed yet must give on the average of 40 per cent of their wretchedly small incomes for rent, while the rest of the city pays 25 per cent. In one of the overcrowded blocks of Harlem there is a population density of 671 persons compared with average Manhattan density of 200 persons. Besides these figures, most of the tenements in Harlem are vermin-ridden firetraps, which to a large extent explains Harlem's enormously high death rate. These conditions are not only a menace to the Negro people in Harlem but to the health and well-being of the people of New York.

Moreover, the housing situation in Harlem grows steadily worse with rents skyrocketing, evictions daily increasing, and discriminations of every sort plaguing the life of this Negro community.

One of the major tasks of the Commission should be to recommend—and fight for—emergency rent legislation, slum clearance, and to plug up the holes in the Civil Rights law which permits blood-sucking landlords to discriminate against and gouge Harlem people.

In fighting for these issues, the Commission would deserve the support of Harlem and the progressive people of all New York. Meanwhile, the Negro people—supported by labor and all progressive-minded citizens—should organize broad united fronts as their best weapon against these jim-crow evils.

EAST SIDE CONCERN TAKES OVER HOMES FROM JOHN D.

Advices in real estate circles on Tuesday morning conveyed the information that the Paul Laurence Dunar Garden Apartments, at 149th and 150th streets and Seventh avenue, had ben sold to the 320 East 73rd Street Corporation, headed by E. Cranford Stuckless. Reported amount of the transaction price was said to be one million dollars.

In the transaction Rockefeller is believed to have taken back a purchase-money mortgage of $350,000 subordinate to a first mortgage for $65,000 given simultaneously to The New York Savings Bank, payable according to the bond." This information is divulged through papers filed in the New York County Register's office.

Tenants of the 511 separate apartments were in receipt on Monday of an announcement from Frank S Staley, 30 Rockefeler Plaza, connected with the office of John D. Rockefeler jr., which stated:

"Please be advised that John D Rockefeller jr. has this day sold and conveyed the property known as the Paul Laurence Dunbar Apartments to 320 East 73rd Street Corporation.

"All rent now due or hereafter payable by you is to be paid to 320 East 73rd Street Corporation, at the building office, 2594 Seventh avenue New York, N. Y., or otherwise as the new owner may hereafter direct and request."

Constructed by Mr. Rockefeller in 1928, the Dunbar Apartments represent the first known large scale effort to furnish the model housing to Negroes. There are six units in the block, containing a total of 511 separate apartments, the original plan providing for the purchase of his apartment by each subscriber-tenant, terms being $50 down with the subscription and payments of $11.50 to $17.50 per room per month.

This plan worked smoothly for several years after the buildings were opened, but with the depression defaults began to pile up. Despite the fact that other alternative plans were attempted to meet circumstances of the tenants, Mr. Rockefeller finaly found it necessary to foreclose on a $2,000,000 mortgage in November of 1936. The buildings were constructed at an estimated cost of $3,500,000. Rockefeller is said to have voluntarily refunded tenants about $500,000 in subscriptions so that no one lost money on the transactions involved.

NATION'S BIGGEST PROJECT FAILURE

Rockefeller Liquidates $3,500,000 Co-operative—Returns Half Million To Tenants.

NEW YORK, Nov. 11—(By Albert G. Barnett for ANP)—Harlem residents heard with regret this week the long anticipated news of the failure of the Co-operative Paul Laurence Dunbar Apartments at 149th street and Seventh avenue, erected in 1928 by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., at an estimated cost of $3,500,000.

It was estimated Tuesday that the apartments had been sold by Mr. Rockefeller to the 320 East 73rd Street Corporation, headed by E. Cranford Stuckless, the reported consideration being $1,000,000. In the transfer, it was reported, Mr. Rockefeller took back a purchase-money mortgage of $350,000 which in turn was subject to a first mortgage of $650,000, both given to the New York Savings Bank and "payable according to the bond."

Tenant-Owners Are Repaid Equities

Harlemites particularly regret the transfer of the Dunbar because it represented the biggst effort at cooperative apartment buying ever started in the country and its development was being watched with eagerness by colored people all over the nation. To the credit of Mr. Rockefeller it must be recorded that not a single tenant-owner lost a penny, as he refunded to them in cash, $500,000 they had paid into the equity fund which was created to purchase the buildings when the accumulated reserve was sufficient to negotiate it. Some of the long-term tenants received refunds of from $500 to $700, and higher.

Official notice of the sale was given the 511 tenants of the separate apartments last Monday when Frank S. Staley, acting for Mr. Rockefeller, sent them this notice:

"Please be advised that John D. Rockefeller, Jr., has this day sold and conveyed the property known as the Paul Laurence Dunbar Apartments to 320 East 73rd Street Corporation. All rent now due or hereafter payable by you is to be paid to 320 East 73rd Street Corporation, at the building office, 2594 Seventh avenue, or otherwise as the new owner may hereafter direct upon request."

Plan Was for Subscribr-Tenants to Buy Apartments

Constructed in six units, the original plan called for each subscriber-tenant buying his apartment, the terms being $50 down on obtaining his lease and monthly payments thereafter ranging from $11.50 to $17.50 per room, according to location and convenience of the apartment.

The tenant's $50 payment and his monthly rents—after deductions for overhead, interest, maintenance and other charges—went into the equity fund, each tenant's share of which was to be applied on the purchase of his individual apartment. The proposition got off to a good start but the 1929 stock market crash played havoc with it. During the following years when rents had to be dropped in accordance with the tenants' diminished earning power and when unemployment increased the number of subscriber-tenant cancellation of leases, defaults piled up and in recent months it was generally known that the end of the cooperative venture was imminent. Subsequent plans by the Rockefeller interests to stem the tide of defeat failed and in November, 1936, Mr. Rockefeller found it necessary to foreclose on a $2,000,000 mortgage, to protect his interests.

NEGRO RENTS HELD ARTIFICIALLY HIGH

Post, at Hearing, Says That Harlem Tenants Are 'Gouged' Since They Cannot Move

URGES BUILDING PROGRAM

ERB Consultant Takes Issue With Him, Saying Costs Are Not 'Appreciably' Greater

The monthly rents for apartments in Harlem, especially in slum areas, are artificially higher than the costs for similar accommodations in any other part of the city, Tenement House Commissioner Langdon W. Post said yesterday before the New York State Commission on the Condition of the Urban Colored Population, sitting at 447 West 151st Street.

The commissioner's testimony was taken during the second day's hearing devoted to housing conditions, at which Harlem tenants, landlords and social workers made statements and recommendations in regard to the problem.

"It is a man-made barrier that keeps these rents high," he declared. "I refer to the confinement of Negroes to the restricted area through the reluctance of landlords outside of Harlem to rent to the Negro. In Harlem rents are $30 to $50 for apartments that cost less than $30 on the lower East Side. Better apartments run $50 to $100 in Harlem.

"There is no question about it—that conditions force unfortunates in Harlem into a position where they are victimized. We all know there is discrimination. I think we must be allowed to refuse landlords the right to confine the Negro to one area and then to gouge him."

As possible steps to alter this situation, Mr. Post recomended a building program—"Harlem River Houses many times over"—the setting up temporarily of emergency rent laws, if legal, and continued operation of the Prior Lien Law under efficient departmental machinery until the law's expiration date in 1940.

Miss Gladys La Fetra, housing consultant on New York City for the ERB, did not concur fully with Mr. Post's rent estimates, when she testified later.

"I did not know that rents so much higher in Harlem," she commented. "And as for crowding, the room densities are not appreciably higher than elsewhere in the city."

Mrs. Jane Judge, district secretary for Harlem of the Charity Organization Society, supported Mr. Post's statements on rents. Mrs. Judge, speaking from figures on families aided by the society, said that the average rental cost for unfurnished apartments was $30.08, or $6.14 more than the city-wide average, while furnished rooms were $18.65 a month, or $1.67 less than the city average.

Representatives of John J. Meenan, Inc., and Ivor B. Clark, Inc., real estate agents, testified for their companies in replying to charges that rents had been increased in certain properties owned by the companies when Negro tenants were admitted after the occupancy of white tenants.

At the end of the afternoon session Assemblyman Harold P. Herman, chairman, announced that facts gathered at the present hearing and at five earlier hearings held in other urban centers of the State pointed toward "absolutely indecent housing" as the greatest factor relating to "the deplorable conditions among Negroes."

Social Conditions, Improvement of -1937 New York.

RACIAL SURVEY COMMISSION

GOVERNOR HERBERT H. LEHMAN last week announced the selection of the last three members of the temporary State Commission to study the problems of New York's urban Negro population. As constituted now, the Commission has five Negroes on the board of eleven.

New York Age 7-17-37

The purpose of the Commission, which was authorized by the state legislature which appropriated $30,000 for expenses, is to make a survey of the conditions—social, economic and civic — of the Negro in the state and to make recommendations to the Governor for his guidance in the 1938 legislative session.

As yet, the name of the chairman has not been announced but it would seem to us only proper and fitting that since Negroes constitute the minority on the board that they should be given chairmanship of the Commission. There are no salaries attached to membership on the Commission so that phase of it should enter into consideration of the selection of the chairman.

There is much that the Commission can do if it will. First, there is a well-defined need for it to survey the practices of the Boards of Education throughout the various larger cities of the State and which, with the exception of New York City, manage through devious means to keep Negroes out of the faculties of the various public schools. We believe that problem should be one of the first considerations of the commission.

Secondly, there is the practice by the various local Civil Service Commissions to discourage (New York City excepted) Negroes from entering into competitive examinations for various local jobs. There are isolated instances where some few Negroes are city employees upstate but they are the exception to the rule.

Thirdly, in the matter of private employment, we believe that the present Civil Rign Laws might be further strengthened to include the matter of employment. There is some law on the statute books now, but it is practically ineffectual and has never, to our knowledge, been invoked since its passage. The law might include some provision that utilities enjoying public franchises must stop discrimnating against employment of Negroes in other capacities than porters and maids.

As a case in point we have but to mention the I. R. T. and B. M. T. Subway and Elevated systems in New York where Negroes can advance no further than to the rank of porters despite the excellent service now being rendered by Negroes in the Independent City-Owned Subway System where they are not only conductors but motormen, switchmen, etc.

To mention another transportation system, there is the Fifth Avenue Coach Company which runs busses on various city streets and yet, despite the large patronage given by Negroes there is not the first Negro driver or conductor employed.

We could go on and on with various recommendations for the Commission, but space does not permit and we believe that Messrs. Johnson, Justice, Andrews, Darby and Rivers know enough about the situation to need no reminders here.

The Commission can perform a grand service to the race if it goes about making its survey in a whole-hearted manner and if it has the determination to do something constructive for the benefit of Negroes. The larger part of the problem of the Negro lies, however, within himself as far as the economic phase is concerned. We must become producers to a greater extent rather than consumers but no legislation, city, state or national, can bring that about.

Mayor Explains To Harlem Movers Assn. About Federal Housing Moving Contracts

New York Age 8-14-37

In an effort to explain why no Negro moving men's groups were given opportunity to bid on the moving job for the new tenants of the Harlem River Houses, Mayor LaGuardia has written the Rev. Gerald Hamilton, president, Harlem Movers Association, as follows.

My dear Dr. Hamiton:

I have your telegram of July 23. I fear that you are under a misapprehension as to what is being done and why the method of transportation to which you refer had been adopted. In the first place I have assurancee that Negroes are being employed and will be employed. In the second place you must understand that unless the moving is organized and synchroied it would result in great loss to both tenants and the moving vans themselves.

The moving is really two distinct operations. The first is to the disinfecting chamber and the second is from the disinfecting chamber into the apartment. The furniture which must be disinfected each day must arrive at a certain time. If it is late it means the furniture is delayed on the van for twenty-four hours period.

Under the arrangement each family is given a day and the whole moving is so systemized as to get the furniture at the point of disinfection at the proper time and from there into the apartment . I am informed by Commissioner Post, chairman of the Housing Authority, that not only will Negroes be employed but he is trying to work out a method whereby some of the vans which you represent will be employed. In this way they will at least be in a better position not to lose time and money as they would if the moving were done haphazardly, with each family on its own. Then, I am sure, you must consider the cost of transportation to the family.

The Harlem Houses are constructed for the sole purpose of sanitary and cheerful apartments at low rentals. If each family were to risk the cost of delay in moving, the cost would be prohibitive. Under the system adopted a family is protected as to cost and knows exactly what it will have to pay and there will be no delay in getting into their new apartments.

May I suggest that you contact the Housing Authority and see what can be done so that some of your members may get some of this work in the way above named. (Signed) F. H. LaGuardia, Mayor

HAMILTON'S REPLY

Under date of August 3, the Rev. Mr. Hamilton wrote the Mayor as follows:

Thanks for your patient and kind letter of July 26, instant, in re the Harlem Movers Association and the moving of the tenants' furniture into the Harlem River Houses. In reply let me say that I am writing you as an ordained minister of the Missionary Baptist Church and not as the president of the Association. The nature of situation under discussion demands that I view it in the large rather than the restricted sense of an officer of the complaining group of citizens. Here are some phases of this controversy I wish you had touched upon—

(a) Why should a deal involving over $14,000 in one sum be taken out of Harlem when you know the economic pressure among these 300,000 inhabitants?

(b) Why was there no public call for bids? Why were just twelve "responsible" firms selected to bid?

(c) Inasmuch as this project concerned Harlem, was built with Federal funds to spread prosperity, the peculiar manner in which the transaction has been handled denies the primary moral purpose of the Government's intention.

(d) Peculiarly not one Negro moving firm was asked to be among those who did bid.

Suppose this project were in the East 3rd street section of our city, would the Housing Authority have come to Harlem to select twelve firms to bid?

But, Mr. Mayor, this matter goes beyond race and provincialism. Here are men who are citizens, taxpayers and attempting to to make an honest living. They are not trouble-makers but peaceful members of a democratic society. And I can see how they feel. Their constitutional rights have been taken from them in the arbitrary action of selecting the mover. The principle involved, as I see it, is a basic one in a free society. They have not been accorded their rights by the transaction and being law abiding citizens, they protested to you to rectify the injustice done them. That is the issue.

So far as the selected mover probably using "some Harlem vans" and his probable employing some colored labor—well, that would simply be a case of them accepting some crumbs from the big $14,000 table. Candidly, my dear Mayor, they protested as men.

Now, I, by the grace of God, have been allowed to dedicate my life to the spiritual and moral principle that a free people, if they remain free, must never use a back door to what is their democratic right secured by using the front door. I further hold that justice for all at times is every son of God's due. But in that case such justice has not been meted out. Moreover, there are many who have looked upon you as a fighting friend for the minorities, all minorities.

In conclusion, pray allow me to remind you that the citizens of Harlem have been deeply wounded by this arbitrary action of your Housing Authority. And the use of no back door can assuage nor heal the wound whether it has been unconsciously inflicted or not. As a servant of the Eternal, I cannot evade my responsibility of telling you as Chief Executive of the largest city in the world that this transaction has "greatly displeased the Lord," and no good can come of it.

(Signed)
GERALD HAMILTON, Minister.
254 West 135th Street.

HARLEM LANDLORDS

THE CONSOLIDATED Tenants League and others are complaining because the landlord of an apartment house at 350 Manhattan avenue is increasing his rents by almost a third during a transition from white to colored tenants. The Age was one of the first organizations in Harlem to urge property-owners to be reasonable and to fight gouging landlords, so much so we incurred the wrath of every real estate office in Harlem and were put on their "black list" for advertising.

In recent years we have come to realize that not all the fault is with the landlord, for as long as Negro tenants will pay the exhorbitant prices asked for apartments abandoned by whites the landlord has a plausable excuse for getting all he can. He is in business to make money and if he can get $60 for an apartment worth $30 why shouldn't he take it?

It's up to organizations like the Consolidated Tenants League to show prospective tenants the lack of wisdom in paying such prices. If the house is left vacant for a time the landlord will be glad to accept a lower figure in order to secure some income from his property.

To forego moving into new neighborhoods in uptown Manhattan means that the Negro population will have to spread out more. This could be done advantageously both to the newcomer and people already living in Harlem. In sparsely settled sections of the Bronx, Brooklyn and Long Island, and even in Staten Island rents are much cheaper and with rapid transit facilities improving, any part of Greater New York will soon be accessable to the other sections.

Don't blame the Harlem landlord for getting all he can for his property. His business is run on the law of supply and demand. You can keep the demand down by helping to spread newcomers to Harlem into other and less crowded sections of the city.

Fight Continued On Moving Monopoly In Harlem River Houses

Continuing the fight on behalf of Harlem movers who are seeking to break down the moving monopoly enjoyed by a white concern at the Harlem River Houses, the N.Y. Housing Authority was taken to task on two charges this week.

In the first instance The Age was informed, a prospective tenant of the house was visited by a representative of the World Movers and a member of the staff of the Harlem River Houses and was told that the cost for moving just one trunt and two other pieces of furniture would be $23.

The tenant had told the moving concern and housing representative that he only had those three pieces to move because he was disposing of his other furniture and buying new furnishings. He was informed that the charge for moving was based upon the number of rooms taken and not the furniture to be moved into it.

Another tenant, said the informant, told him that his wife was visited by a representative of a large milk company and told that when she moved into the new houses she would have to buy her milk from his company.

The N. A. A. C. P. has been informed of these latest developments and is expected to take action in the matter.

Commission Studies Race In Niagara Falls

NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y., Dec. 17—Hearings on the condition of the urban colored population of Buffalo and vicinity took place December 7 and 8 in the State building.

The hearing began with the general outline of social, civic and economic progress of the Race in Buffalo, by William L. Evans, executive director of the Memorial center and Urban League; public utilities, civil service, municipal employment, by Rev. S. O. B. Johnson. Employment, labor unions, apprentice training and job losses were presented by E. Hill, L. Plummer, W. H. Bethel, and H. H. Lewis, Sr. Relief and unemployment was discussed by Miss Ercell Harmon and insurance by James L. Robinson; and education, Mrs. Elizabeth B. Talbert, Mrs. Henri Smith and John Bruce.

The social, civic and economic problems of Niagara Falls were presented by J. T. Pollard Sr., director of the Niagara Community Center. Housing was presented by Chester Jackson, Alexander Hall and Newton Service; civil rights, by Rev. J. Edward Nash; delinquency and recreation, by D. Lang; public opinion and newspapers by Mrs. Otis Jackson, health by Dr. I. L. Scruggs; Communist party, by Henry Wright.

While here the Commission subpoenaed heads of public utilities to state to the Commission their attitude and feeling toward Negroes that prevented them from hiring those capable of holding positions in the companies and from being given consideration for positions when vacancies occurred.

A resume of the hearing was given by the committee on December 14 when the Frontier chapter of Social Workers met at the Michigan avenue Y. M. C. A. The commission is to complete its work prior to March 1, 1938 at which time it is believed that committees functioning throughout the state will receive a complete report of the commissions findings plus legislative recommendations.

Social Conditions, Improvement of - 1937 New York.

INVESTIGATING NEGROES IN NEW YORK

New York's Governor Lehman has signed a bill which creates a commission to investigate the status of Negroes in that State.

This is probably another example of misguided colored citizens selling white authorities a bill of goods, and we imagine there is a fat job for some prominent Negro in the offing.

Such commissions merely "discover" what every Negro already knows: i. e., that more or less race prejudice, discrimination and unfairness exist here and there.

Usually the next step is to suggest that the Negro commission be made permanent in order to gather annual statistics on the race, and of course, that means that somebody must head this commission or department at an attractive salary.

New York Negroes do not need any such commission. It will do no more than have other such commissions elsewhere and will very likely strengthen already increasing segregation.

RENTALS HIGHEST IN HARLEM, SAYS E.R.B. IN REPORT

$300,000 Sought As Fund To Aid Relief Clients In Debt To Landlords

The statement that Harlem tenants pay the highest rentals in the city was conclusively proven by the Emergency Relief Bureau last week when it released a report on the housing problem of the relief population of the city.

The report has been forwarded to the Board of Estimate, which recommended a survey after Director Charlotte E. Carr of the ERB requested an appropriation of $300,000 to establish a fund to help out recipients of relief who are in debt to landlords.

In Manhattan, the report showed 36 percent paid less than $5 per room; 41.7 percent paid from $5 to $8 per room, and 22.3 percent paid $8 or more. With the exception of Harlem the Bronx had the highest rentals. 7.2 percent paid less than $5 per room per month; 46.8 percent paid from $5 to $7 per room, and 44 percent paid more than $8 per room. In Brooklyn, 41.3 percent paid less than $5 per room.

Special Problem In Harlem

"Because of the special nature of the housing problem in Harlem," the report stated, "the data was tabulated separately. The figure conclusively demonstrates that the Harlem population paid the highest rentals in the city for accommodations that are inferior to those in other sections of the city.

"Of the 20,137 cases studied in Harlem, it was found that 52.2 percent pay $8 or more per room. However, 50.1 percent of these families have private baths, heat and hot water. Throughout the city, the survey showed that 38.5 percent paid more than $8 a room.

"Our present rent schedules are generally inadequate for families of five or more to pay $8 or more a room. Because of the limited allowances made by the ERB for rent many families go into debt. In other cases, the owners allow arrears to accumulate, and in some cases private social agencies make up the balance of the rent that is due.

"Sometimes the money which usually goes to buy food and clothing is paid to the landlord. These situations must be corrected, and a special fund of $300,000, which we have requested, should make it possible to correct the situation."

The report also stated that "The relief population is best housed in the Bronx. This is undoubtedly due to the fact that the Bronx has more moderately priced new tenements than the other boroughs. Of the 2,943 cases surveyed in the Bronx, 74.2 percent have private baths, central heat and hot water. In Manhattan, exclusive of Harlem, 27.9 percent have these conveniences, Brooklyn 39.9 percent, Queens 23.9 percent and Richmond 4.2 percent.

"The Bronx, as might be expected because of superior housing conditions, had, except for Harlem, the highest rental. In the Bronx, 7.2 per cent paid less than $5 per room per month; 46.8 percent paid from $5 to $8 per room, and 44 percent paid more than $8 per room."

Need Aid For 10,000

10,000 large families, the report said, will require assistance. The bulk of those paying $8 or more for a room, it was revealed, are single men and women and married couples without children. The bureau disclosed that $15 a month is paid single persons and $16.50 to childless couples. This is considered generally adequate, but at present there are 50,00 single men and women receiving relief and 30,000 two-person families.

17 percent of the homes of those on relief permit about three-quarters of a room per person, a condition which, the report states, "can be completely eliminated only by the construction of new dwellings at low rentals."

The report included many statistics compiled by the Division of Statistical and Budget Control after a survey had been made of some 81,000 relief cases throughout the city.

ADVICE TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES

FOLLOWNG THE HARLEM Riots, a number of organizations working in the interest of Harlem and among Negroes found it advisable to appoint Negroes to their Advisory Committees, with the idea, of consulting them on matters of policy. These organizations included the New York Housing Authority and the Works Progress Administration in New York City.

This step was hailed as an advance for the Negro and was generally applauded, but it seems that in most instances the move was merely a political one to quiet the unrest of the long-suffering populace. For it seems that after appointing these committees, their advice was not sought or was ignored. Discrimination is still rampant in many such organizations.

Members of these advisory committees who find themselves ignored might do their race a service by resigning as a protest against being made figure-heads. This action on their part might prove their own "backbone" and at the same time call public attention to the fact that the particular organization is not living up to its professions of fairness and a square deal for all, regardless of race or creed.

If those who are appointed to such committees put up a fight for what they believed to be of the best interest to their group, they would gain greater respect from their fellow-citizens.

The Age advises them to resign.

RIVER HOUSES GET TENANTS

When the first twenty-eight families left their slum dwellings behind them on Monday and moved into the Harlem River Houses it was a day of gladness for fathers, mothers and children alike.

Built by the PWA at a cost of $4,219,000 to house low-income families, the plan as outlined by Franklin O. Nichols, manager of the housing project, to a reporter of The Amsterdam News is to move twenty-eight families per day, beginning August 30 through September 29, when the total of 571 families will have been moved into the apartments.

Although most of the tenants were at their several occupations during the day, those seen and interviewed expressed every satisfaction at having been the successful applicants.

Some had left fire-traps, poorly ventilated and dilapidated buildings, without hot water, steam heat or modern sanitary facilities, for clean, sunny and spacious rooms equipped with the most up-to-date conveniences, including refrigerators, incinerators and large closets.

But to the surprise of tenants and visitors, the entire housing project has been completed without the installation of bells.

Queries Tenant.

"How do you feel in your new apartment?" Mrs. Ruth Hobson, formerly of 815 East 167th street, was asked. "I am very glad to have been one of the lucky applicants," she replied. "I filed by application as I saw everybody else was doing I thought I would file and be lucky for once, because I am never lucky in anything," Mrs. Hobson declared.

According to Mr. Jackson, a member of the staff, the Hobsons are a typical family of three, occupying three rooms at $5.05 per week each. It was also brought to light that all rent must be paid weekly; and all utility expenses, gas, electricity, and payments for the use of refrigerators must be paid monthly.

Another matter which seemed to puzzle some of the tenants is, regardless of how much electricity a family uses, they must pay the amount arranged for by a somewhat arbitrary standard.

As one family was told, even if an apartment was closed for the summer, the tenant would be under obligation to pay the light bill, although no light was used.

Robert and Alberta Banks and their five children were highly appreciative of their new surroundings. Mr. Banks works as a clerk in a brokerage concern in the financial district, and Mrs. Banks, contrary to expectations, said that to "fumigate our household effects, although it caused us some inconvenience, is very good, and we were glad to suffer the hardships overnight."

"Fair Cross-Section."

Speaking of the selection of tenants, Mr. Nichols said: "I think the selection represents a fair cross-section of Harlem, because it is how the population of the community is divided.

"The basis of selection was income in relation to rent, condition of housing in which the applicant lived, and the character of the applicant," he asserted.

In the meantime, the Harlem Colored Movers Association maintains pickets on the Seventh avenue side of the housing project, as a protest against the use of the World Moving and Storage Company, 402 East Third street, Emanuel Lefkowitz, white, president. The pickets demand that Negroes should get a cut of the $14,000 moving contract awarded to the Lefkowitz concern.

Mr. Lefkowith, when questioned about the trouble, said that he had employed 70 per cent of Negro labor to work on the moving and that he is ready and willing to use Negro truckmen, but that he must use union labor and Negro truckmen are not members of the union.

Had to Rent Room.

In the case of the Boynton family, they had to rent a room while their

...hold effects were being fumi-... "I feel perfectly satisfied. I ... it will be a great help to our ...-months-old son," Ernest Boyn-... said.

... Boyntons will not save much ... on rent, but they will live in a sanitary apartment, flooded with sunlight and provided with the comforts of a modern home. Boynton owns a newsstand at the corner of 139th street and Seventh avenue.

The moving was being done in an orderly manner. There was no commotion, no one seemed excited, although the tenants looked somewhat strange in their new dwellings

Some on Relief.

About six relief families were selected and given apartments; and twelve apartments have been specially built to accommodate the aged particularly people receiving old-age pensions.

In addition there are four penthouses, and a nursery school, which will be under the direction of the New York Kindergarden Society. Children from the neighborhood will be catered to by the society.

As Mr. Nichols explained, the furniture and household effects of tenants are called for between the hours of 5 and 7 in the morning and delivered to the fumigating plant, ...ere they must remain from five to six hours. Then they are taken to the apartment to be aired and used the following day.

From their own statements, it is clear that every tenant feels that he or she has made a change for the better. They seem to feel that the slum dwellings of Harlem and vicinity are soon to be a thing of the past.

Commission Attacks Negro Housing Problem

IN the organization of a "Commission on the Condition of the Urban Colored Population" New York state takes a step toward solving one of our most serious social problems—the problem of Negro housing. In 1890 there were one and a half million urban Negroes in the United States; now there are more than six million. These six million live for the most part in segregated residence districts so limited that serious crowding is unavoidable. A study of Negro housing in Richmond, Charlottesville and Lynchburg, three Virginia cities, revealed that "the density of the Negro sections was 46 persons per acre as compared with 11 persons per acre in the white areas. In some sections of the Negro areas density reached 78 persons per acre." The same relative density of population obtains in other urban centers with large Negro populations. It may not be generally known that as a result of this same residence segregation, the Negro pays generally higher rentals than the white person, to whom more residence opportunities are open. It is the crowding and poverty produced by inadequate housing facilities on the one hand and high rents on the other which account in considerable part for the Negro's greater susceptibility to contagious disease. In Hartford, Connecticut, according to an article by Samuel Lafferty in the current *Crisis,* the tuberculosis death rate among Negroes was last year nine times greater than the white death rate, the pneumonia rate almost half as great, and the syphilis rate twenty-three times greater. More than the welfare of six million Negro citizens is involved in our finding some answer to the Negro housing shortage—the health of our whole urban population is involved.

KNOCK, KNOCK! WHO'S THERE?

No Bells In New $4,219,000 Harlem Apartments Families Find Upon Moving In. Overlooked During Construction

NEW YORK CITY (CNS)—When the first families moved into the Harlem River apartments of the $4,219,000 Public Works Administration low-rent project at Seventh Avenue and 151st Street, they found no call bells.

Just how this mistake was made has not been explained and the building contractors say that no tubes or passageways were provided in the walls to carry the wires necessary to install the system.

It will, therefore, be necessary to chisel passageways in the solid brick walls and concrete floors before the necessary wires can be installed.

The first twenty-seven families were moved in last week. The moving which is being done by a private concern under a blanket contract with the New York City Housing Authority, operators of the project by lease from the Federal government, will be a matter of nearly twenty-four hours in each instance because each prospective tenant's household effects must first be fumigated and aired as a precaution against vermin and disease.

Even so, the authority hopes to move families in at the rate of fifteen to thirty a day until the first two units of 123 apartments are filled. By that time three more units are expected to be ready, bringing the total number of families to 379. There will be some delay before the two final units can be occupied and the maximum 574 families accomodated.

To Discuss Social Problems At Race Welfare Conference

The social and economic problems of the Negro will be discussed at a two-day session to be held here by the New York State Conference on Negro Welfare under the auspices of the Thirty-Eight Annual New York State Conference on Social Work on October 20 and 21 at the Hotel Pennsylvania.

Participating in the deliberations will be several hundred Negro social welfare workers from private and public agencies of the state and nation.

"Job Expansion and The Negro Worker," is the subject to be discussed on Wednesday, October 20, when the meetings of the Negro Welfare Conference get under way. Those who will take part in the discussion are Lester B. Granger, secretary of the Workers' Bureau of the National Urban League; Laurence A. Oxley, field representative of the United States Employment Service, and Carita Roane, manager of the Harlem office of the New York State Employment Service, who will preside.

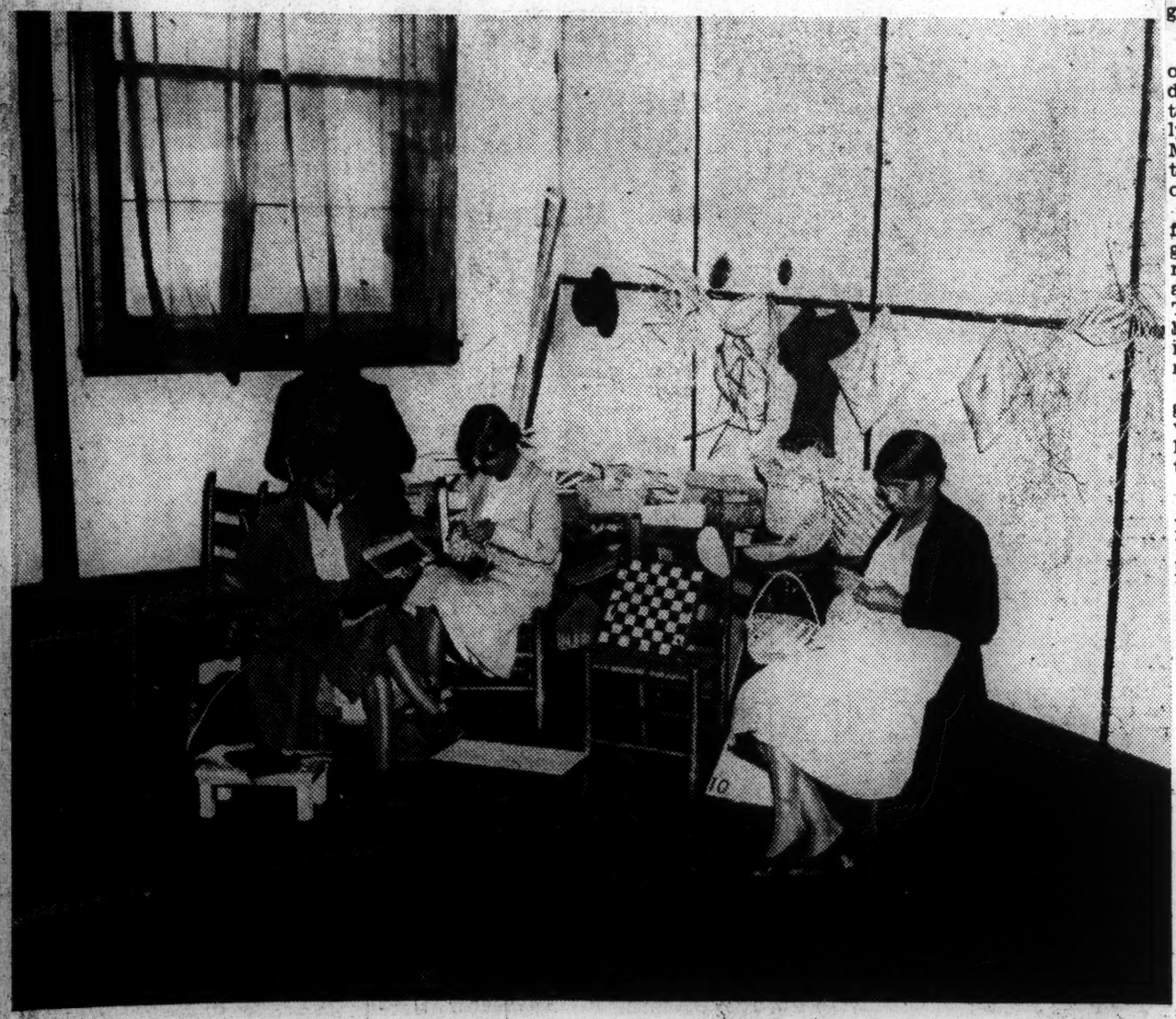
On Thursday, October 21, "Community Resources and The Negro Citizen," will be the topic of discussion. Among those who will participate are T. Arnold Hill, member of the State Board of Social Welfare; Ira De.A Reid of the Social Security Board, of Washington; Mabel Staupers, executive secretary of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses; Henry K. Craft, executive secretary of the Harlem Branch, YMCA; and Edward Lindeman of the New York School of Social Work. Mr. Hill will preside.

More than four thousand social workers are expected to participate in the Conference, which will be held from October 19 to 22 with headquarters at the Hotel Pennsylvania. Every phase of public and private welfare work from childhood to old age will be discussed.

Among those scheduled to address the social workers during the four-day session are Governor Herbert H. Lehman, WPA Administrator Harry L. Hopkins, David C. Adie, New York State Commissioner of Social Welfare, U. S. Civil Service Commissioner Samuel H. Ordway, Jr.; Homer Folks, Secretary of State Charities Aid Association: Austin H. MacCormick, N. Y. City Commissioner of Correction; Frederick I. Daniels, Deputy State Commissioner of Social Welfare; Dr. S. S. Goldwater, New York City Commissioner of Health; Sanford Bates, executive director of the Boys' Club of America and George Z. Medalie.

Social Conditions, Improvement of -1937 North Carolina.

Unit Sponosored By Negro Welfare Council



One of the many activities of the Negro Welfare council is this handicraft class at the Y. M. I. building. The class is sponsored by the council, which is a member agency of the Asheville Community chest.

Asheville, N. C., Times
October 21, 1937

NEGRO WELFARE COUNCIL ACTIVE IN COMMUNITY

Softball, Other Recreation Costs Less Than Delinquency, Leaders Find.

Games of soft ball and juvenile delinquency may seem to have little connection, but the situation in Asheville shows that where the former is played, the latter tends to diminish.

During the summer the Negro Welfare council, a member agency of the Asheville Community chest, organized soft ball teams at schools and play areas. Delinquency among young negro boys, one of the city's most persistent problems, decreased 75 per cent. Not one boy playing on a team got into any trouble.

The picture, however, has a dark side, emphasized by Julius C. Highe, director of the council. During the interval between summer and winter programs, when lack of volunteer leaders and playground facilities curtailed activities, boys had too much unsupervised leisure on their hands. Good records were broken last month, and by the middle of October, 22 boys had been taken into court.

It does not take an economist to figure which costs less, soft ball or petty crimes.

Most people have heard of the knot hole gang, but not everyone knows that the negro gang comprises 680 young negro boys whose membership cards admit them to the first game of each home series played by the Asheville Tourists.

These boys promise not to neglect school or jobs in order to attend a game, and they are pledged to uphold principles of clean speech and clean sportsmanship. They also promise to return any balls which may fall into their sections of the stands.

27 Workers Assist

During the past six months 27 workers, seven of them furnished by the WPA, the remainder by the NYA, have been assisting with the recreation program of the Negro Welfare council, which pays incidental expenses and provides facilities.

Summer activities centered around six negro schools and two open spaces used as playgrounds, an average of 250 young people taking advantage of the organized games each day. Dodge ball, soft ball, and later, football occupied the attention of older boys, while singing games, dancing, and handicrafts were provided for girls. A few of the workers were college people, but trained leaders are for the most part lacking. Many of the NYA helpers had less than high school work to their credit, but they learned to direct games by understudying their elders.

650 Boys in Clubs

Some 650 boys belonged to clubs organized for them; because of the dearth of leaders, only 230 girls had this opportunity. Clubs met weekly for sports, hikes and outings. Many of the boys' clubs will continue during the winter, and a few of the girls'.

The council has sponsored clubs for adults as well. Five different groups, numbering about 175 women, many of them elderly, meet at one another's homes the year round. They learn needlecraft and other household arts. The Clingman Avenue club, largest of the five, has more than 40 members.

The staff member who has charge girls' work also heads the division which cooperates with the county health department by sending cases to that office.

Chorus Active

The chorus, directed by volunteer leadership, but sponsored by the Welfare council, took an outstanding part in Asheville's recent music festival. Those singers have also appeared on programs given for the Elks and the Kiwanis club. Weekly practices take place at the Y. M. I.

Wilmington, N. C. News
October 10, 1937

Negroes Raise $1,000 In Boys Club Campaign

Dr. M. N. Leary, chairman of the finance committee of the negro chamber of commerce drive for funds to establish a negro boys club here, announced last night workers had succeeded in raising $1,000 and that they would press on for $1,500.

A meeting at which workers will report has been called for 8:30 o'clock Monday night at 510 Red Cross street.

Social Conditions, Improvement of-1937 North Carolina.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
July 11, 1937

FUND FOR NEGRO PARK LAUNCHED IN WILSON

Wilson, July 10.—Wilson's board of aldermen granted a request from a group of local Negroes last night for an appropriation of $7,500 as the town's part in the erection of a $30,000 building here for a Negro recreational center. The request was granted on the condition that the county commissioners made the same appropriation.

The structure will be built with the help of the town, county and the WPA.

First Meeting Of Its Kind Comes To End

Findings To Be Used By State Dep't. of Education

Staff Correspondence

ELIZABETH CITY, N. C.—North Carolina's first conference on Negro Child Welfare was brought to a close at the State Normal School here Saturday after a week in which experts in various social service fields took up the relationship between their offices and the mental, physical and moral welfare of the Negro child in North Carolina.

Worked out as a project by Prof. James A. Clark of the department of hygiene while working on a Ph.D. degree at Columbia University last year, the conference got under way on Monday with Prof. Leonard Robinson of the State Normal School faculty speaking from the subject, "Social Securities as Related to Negro Child Welfare."

The week's meeting ended on Saturday with discussion groups and summations, and an address on "Protection of the Handicapped Negro Child," by Miss Lily E. Mitchell, director of the North Carolina Department of Child Welfare.

PRIZES AWARDED

Prizes for the best poster designed for the huge exhibit which was one of the principal features of the conference throughout the week were also awarded on Saturday, as well as awards for the best note book records. Several hundred students attending the second summer term competed for the prizes. Dr. E. L. Hoffler, Elizabeth City physician, donated ten dollars for the prizes.

The conference, according to Prof. Clark, was sponsored for the benefit of parents, teachers, physicians, nurses, and all types of social service workers connected with local, state or national welfare agencies, and was designed to acquaint the public with the Negro child's physical, mental, emotional, soeial and spiritual development through clubs for boys and girls, clubs for parents, pre-school education, infant and maternity care, recreation and other secuirties needed for the welfare of the Negro child in North Carolina.

Such questions as the following were considered: How do the vital statistics of the Negro child and adult compare with other groups in the community? 2. In that same community did the Negro child have an equity of medical care, health education and other favorable conditions for healthful living conditions as other groups considered?

3. Does the improvement of the health status of the Negro and other groups prove that favorable vital statistics are influenced more by environmental securities, or biloigical heredity of a race? 4. Has the differential of morbidity and mortality of the Negro and groups with favorable records, decreased with the increased care of the Negro?

FINDINGS TO BE USED

The findings of the conference will be compiled for use by the North Carolina State Department of Education, it was stated by Prof. Clark.

More than fifty agencies contributed to the exhibit of books, magazines, and posters on child welfare. One of the principal speakers at the Thursday night meeting which was known as "Elizabeth City Night" was His Honor, Mayor Jerome B. Flora, who pledged his individual support and that of the city, to the child welfare program.

A colorful pageant, "Children in the Land of Flowers and Birds," in which more than 50 children participated, a demonstration of a daily nursery school proram, and a motion picture detailing the religious education activities of the A. M. E. Zion Church, completed Thursday night's program.

A total of 35,000 persons will participate in North Carolina's program of old age assistance and aid to dependent children and needy blind, William R. Johnson, director of the Negro Division, State Department of Charities and Public Welfare, told the conference at its Friday afternoon session.

TO SPEND $6,000,000

The social security program, Mr. Johnson said, began on July 1 following passage of a law by the last Legislature parallelling the national social security law, and will see the expenditure of $6,000,000 by the state.

No discrimination on account of race or creed will be practiced in administering th state's social security program, the speaker declared and paid tribute to Negro leadership in North Carolina. "In no other state is Negro leadership recognized as in North Carolina," he said. He revealed that of a total of thirty ond-age assistance checks distributed in Chowan County recently, 29 of them went to colored persons.

W. J. Wingate, white, field supervisor of the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare, explained the workings of the state social security statute and its eligibility clauses. "Social security," he declared, "is not an act of charity, but an act of Democracy, it is something that is deserved and is the outcome of organized society preparing security benefits for its individual members."

OTHER CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Other speakers for the conference included: L. A. Blackus, assistant supervisor, recreation for Negroes, State of North Carolina; Dr. I. B. McEachin, director, Whittaker Memorial Hospital, Newport News, who spoke on "Mental Diseases;" Dr. F. C. Cooke of Elizabeth City; Mrs. L. B. Yancey, president of the North Carolina Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers.

Also Mrs. Inez Williams, director of Elizabeth City playgrounds; Miss Rosa Mills, state supervisor of nursery schools and parent-education; Prof. William M. Cooper, director of extension, Hampton Institute; Prof. Harold Trigg, of the N. C. State Department of Education; Martin L. Harvey, president of the Youth Council of America; T. K. Borders, superintendent of the Oxford Orphanage, Oxford, N. C.; the Rev. George A. Fisher, rector, St. Ambrose Parish, Raleigh, N. C.

Music was furnished by the Hampton Institute quartet, Norman Concert Singers, under the direction of James Norman, and the State Normal School singers, directed by Miss Elizabeth Bias.

Winners in the poster contest were announced by Prof. Clark as follows: first prize, W. R. James; second, Mrs. Cecil Norman; third, Mrs. Rosa Hargroves and Mr. John Joyner.

Winners in note book contest: first prize, Miss Genevieve Scarborough; second, Miss Jennie E. McMurren; third, Miss Julia E. Taylor.

Smithfield, N. C. Herald
August 3, 1937

COLLINS TO ASK FOR OUTSIDE AID

Negro League To Send Him On Tour In State And In North For Project Here

Asserting that the Johnston County Community League sponsor for the Negro education and recreation project at the Johnston County Training School, will not cease activity until every account is paid, W. R. Collins, executive secretary of the League announces that the League is sending him on a thirty day trip in North Carolina and in the North in an effort to secure donations from friends of Negro education.

The first of these contacts in the state will be made today when an engagement will be filled in Winston-Salem with a man who has been a lifelong friend of Negro Education and who is largely responsible for the Negro Teachers College in Winston-Salem. This man, states the secretary, has become geraly interested in the project in Smithfield and is now desirous of factual information, which he will attempt to give in an interview today.

The first of the contacts on the trip North will be with the president of the Southern Education Association in Washington, D. C., a newly-formed organization, combining the interests of the Stater Foundation and the Jeans Foundation designed for the support of Negro Education. This engagement has been made for August 10.

The League is continuing its efforts locally to raise funds for the project, a rally having been held at the regular meeting held Sunday afternoon when J. W. Mitchell, Negro farm demonstration agent representing the National Farm Extension Service delivered an address.

The dance held last week failed to net the sum the promoters had hoped only enough having been cleared on it to cover a few checks that had been held as notes. The continuous rain limited the number of attendants.

The winning number drawn at the dance was 4122, and the holder of the duplicate was L. T. Henderson of Henderson. The winner was entitled to a Philco radio or cash and Henderson has indicated that he will take cash.

The 1,000 tickets necessary for the giving away of a Ford V-8 were not sold and this prize was eliminated on July 24 prior to the dance.

Durham, N. C., Morning Herald
September 12, 1937

NURSERY AT SOUTHSIDE TO REOPEN ON MONDAY

The nursery aided by the work progress administration at Southside school will reopen Monday, J T. Cobb, local WPA project director announced yesterday. The nursery for white children, was closed about three weeks ago when WPA teachers left for a state conference at Boone. Two other WPA nursery projects here are for Negroes.

Sponsors of the Southside project will meet Friday night at 7:30 o'clock with Miss Rose Mills of Raleigh, state supervisor. Cobb said

Greensboro, N. C., Record
September 20, 1937

Summer Program At Negro Center Brought to End

Members of the staff of the Windsor community center at Nocho park were entertained at a banquet last week, climaxing the short summer program at the swimming pool and recreational center when reports Head Life Guard Conrad Raiford, George Windsor, life guard, and A. G. Wells, director of women's activities at the center. Other staff members and playground workers also attended.

It was reported at the banquet that 16,000 persons visited the pool and were presented of the various programs staged during the season.

Among those present at the closing banquet were Rev. R. T. Weatherby, chairman of the negro recreation committee; President F. D. Bluford, of A. and T. college, Dr. D. D. Jones, president of Bennett college, Dr. W. H. Simpkins, Professor J. A. Tarpley, superintendent of negro public schools, and Professor A. H. Peeler, all members of the negro recreation committee. Staff members present included Assistant Director William Thomas, grounds during the brief time the pool has been open. Fifteen picnics frequented the center, including groups from churches and schools from the city and nearby towns, such as Winston - Salem, Burlington, Reidsville, Mocksville, Liberty and Asheboro.

According to the directors of the center, plans are about complete for a full, interesting and enjoyable fall and winter recreation program. Beginning today fall play activities will start, including dramatics, handcraft, music, educational classes, physical activities and social recreation. The first event to brighten the initial indoor activities will be a mass public meeting next Friday at 8 p. m., at which program Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown, president and founder of Palmer Memorial institute, will deliver the address, and members of the center staff will present to the citizens of the community the fall recreation program. The public is invited to attend this meeting.

Durham, N. C., Morning Herald
September 30, 1937

Negro Chorus Authorized By Recreation Department

Board Refuses To Lease Old Whitted School Site—Community Centers To Open Monday—Nell Hunter To Direct Big Chorus

Organization of a huge Negro chorus was authorized by the recreation commission yesterday afternoon at its first meeting since June. It is planned to use around 400 boys in the Negro Knot-Hole club as a nucleus. The chorus would be trained under the supervision of Nell Hunter, Durham Negro vocalist of note, who now is state head of the Negro music project sponsored by the works progress administration.

The chorus would be part of the community center program at Hillside park.

The Hayti community center will be opened formally at 7:30 o'clock Monday night when Mrs. Mamie Dowd Walker, judge of juvenile court, will be the principal speaker, E. W. Midgette, director, and others also will appear on the program.

J. C. Scarborough, Sr., will give about 30 one-dollar bills to members of the Knot-Hole club who attended Sunday school every Sunday during the year that the club has been in existence.

Community centers at Long Meadow park and the Lyceum building on West Trinity avenue also will open Monday.

The commission decided to purchase a portable moving picture projector for sound pictures. The present sound apparatus has to be transported in a special truck. If used equipment can be obtained, the projector probably will cost around $300, C. R. Wood, director of recreation, said. New equipment may cost as much as $700.

The commission rejected a request to lease the Old Whitted school site for a minstrel, and adopted a resolution declaring that in the future property of the recreation commission should not be leased for any private entertainment purposes.

Construction of a storage house and repair shop at Duke park was approved.

The body approved in principle the recommendations made by Wood in his quarterly report, declaring that they should be carried out as far as possible within financial limitations set by the present budget.

Wood's report recommended:

More tennis courts, with four to be constructed at Forest Hills park and one at Duke park. At least two should be of hard surface. Existing courts should be resurfaced and backstops should be extended and repaired.

A wading pool should be built at Oval Drive park, not to cost more than $300.

At least two play areas should be lighted for night activities.

A neighborhood park center should be built at the Old Whitted school site.

Portable moving picture equipment should be bought and some type of seating arrangement should be made for the shows.

The recreation commission consists of J. L. Morehead, chairman; Mrs. Mamie Dowd Walker, juvenile court judge; Henry A. Yancey, city manager; W. F. Warren, superintendent of schools; and A. M. Harris, city councilman. C. R. Wood director of the department, acts as secretary to the commission.

Wilson, N. C., Daily Times
September 24, 1937

CITY SHOULD PAVE THE ROAD TO THE NEGRO CEMETERY.

The city of Wilson should pave the road to the negro cemetery.

A number of prominent negroes of the community have called our attention to the matter, and we referred to it last winter and we were under the impression that the work had been done.

Last winter, when after the successive rains, the ground was so soft that it was impossible to conduct funerals in the cemetery, the negro undertakers were compelled to hold out their bodies for burial until the spring, when the road was in condition to move over it with vehicles and conduct the interments.

The property belongs to the city we are informed, and the money for the sale of lots passes into the city treasury, and for that reason as well as the fact that the colored people are tax payers, we feel in justice to them they should be entitled to this consideration, and the work should be done before the winter rains set in and make the road impassable.

Social Conditions, Improvement of-1937

North Carolina.

Greensboro, N. C., Record
January 9, 1937

ANOTHER NEGRO CENTER TO OPEN

Activities Will Be Conducted Three Nights Weekly At Institutional Church.

Plans were announced today for the opening of a new community center in the negro district, this to be used exclusively for women and girls.

The new center, which will be open three nights weekly for various activities, will be located in the Institutional Baptist church basement, and work at the center will be supervised by M. C. Faulkner.

With the opening of this center, a new unit of the negro program, practically all sections of the city will be covered by the community center activities.

A. H. Peeler, director of the negro division of the city recreation department, announced that the program at the new center will be devoted to music, handiwork, games and club activities. The center will be open from 2 until 7 o'clock on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays.

Assisting Faulkner with the program will be M. Crooms and Arthur Headen.

Much progress has been made in community activities at the Jonesboro center, according to Professor Peeler. Tuesday nights are being devoted to girl activities, including dramatics, tap dancing and basketball.

Greensboro, N. C., News
January 10, 1937

NEGRO RECREATIONAL CENTER ESTABLISHED

A new community center for negro women and girls is to be established at the Institutional Baptist church under the supervision of M. C. Faulkner. A program will be scheduled from 2 to 7 o'clock Monday, Wednesday and Friday of each week.

A. H. Peeler, director of the negro division of the city recreation department, announced the program at the new center will be devoted to music, handiwork, games and club activities.

Greensboro, N. C., Record
January 7, 1937

NEGRO'S SOCIAL NEED OUTLINED

Program of Health and Crime Prevention Urged As Outstanding Need

Need for building toward a community-wide program of health, crime prevention, character building and recreation was stressed by A. H. Peeler, principal of the J. C. Price school, in speaking on what the negro wants in social welfare work at the meeting of the Council of Social Agencies Thursday afternoon at the Y. W. C. A.

Professor Peeler developed his idea of community need, without racial discrimination, on a five-point program, calling for Y. W. C. A.'s and Y. M. C. A.'s properly equipped and ably staffed, camps for both boys and girls with adults having the privilege of using them, well trained commissioners to prevent juvenile delinquency, effecienty functioning Girl scout and Boy scout organizations, and representation of all parties in planning and administering the programs which concern them.

Phillips Presides.

Charles W. Phillips, chairman of the council presided, and introduced two social workers recently come to Greensboro, Miss Ellen Rochford, Red Cross executive, and Miss Mildren Parker, director of health education at the Y. W. C. A. Envoy Mountan, of the Salvation army, was introduced as a guest.

Following Professor Peeler's talk, Mr. Phillips reviewed some of the new and enlarged work being undertaken for negroes, including the establishment of a branch of the Y. M. C. A., inclusion in the newly created hospitalization fund, a part-time Travelers Aid worker, service through the Y. W. C. A., the Girl scouts and the Boy scouts, and a new clinic for prevention of tuberculosis.

Wilmington, N. C. News
January 26, 1937

NEGRO RECREATION INSTITUTE OPENED

Forty Negro Supervisors and Teachers of Second WPA District Gather Here

The first negro institute of recreation in this section was begun at the community center of the First Congregational church yesterday as 40 colored supervisors and teachers in the WPA recreational projects of the Second district gathered here.

Conducted by L. G. Blackus, of Raleigh, colored assistant state supervisor of WPA recreational projects, the institute will continue through Friday with daily sessions from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m.

The object of the federal recreational program, as explained by Blackus, is the reduction of juvenile delinquency and the promotion of good citizenship among the negroes by proper utilization of leisure time.

There will be a meeting at the center tonight to which the public, white and colored, is invited. Several city officials will be invited to speak.

Recreational project supervisors and teachers here for the institute come from Rocky Mount, Raleigh, Durham, Smithfield, Goldsboro, Oxford, Henderson, Wake Forest and Warrenton.

Hendersonville, N. C. Times
January 20, 1937

Advisory Board To Aid Colored Civic Leaguers

Library For Colored Employment For Women, Are Among Goals

The advisory board, appointed to assist the Carter G. Woodson Civic League, colored, met with the organization on Monday night at the city hall, and several problems were discussed.

The new board is composed of Mayor A. V. Edwards. Mrs. O. A. Meyer, Dr. L. B. McDonald, Mr. W. H. Cale and Rev. N. Colin Hughes, and wlil serve as intermediary of the league in its major problems and undertakings.

The problem of securing some type of work for the colored women who were dropped from the WPA payrolls when the sewing room was closed to them last spring, most of whom have been unemployed since that time, was brought to the attention of the board.

While there are several projects being worked out, the foremost is the effort of the league to establish a public library for the colored people of this community.

The local unit of the N. Y. A. is co-operating with the league in this effort in that they are preparing a class room in the Ebenezer Presbyterian church to house the library at present. We have the promise of quite a selection of reading matter to be placed in the library already. We will appreciate any contribution of books, magazines or reading matter of any kind.

We wish to inform the general public that the drive, or campaign, launched several weeks ago to better equip the colored ward at Patton Memorial hospital for comfort of patients is soon to be closed and ask that any person wishing to contribute to this cause do so in this final plea.

The league is indeed grateful to Rev. Mr. Hughes in his effort to obtain such fine characters as the personnel of the advisory board. We appreciate the interest that each individual manifested in our organization by accepting membership on this board.

With the aid of these influential persons we hope to accomplish many needed and worthwhile undertakings.

EUGENE G. JONES, President
Carter J. Woodson Civic League
JMF-f

Greensboro, N. C., News
February 4, 1937

GOVERNOR TO SPEAK TO SOCIAL WORKERS

12th Annual Public Welfare Institute For Negroes Opens At State Capital.

Daily News Bureau and Telegraph Office
302 Wachovia Bank Bldg., Fayetteville St.

Raleigh, Feb. 3.—Gov. Clyde R. Hoey will address the 12th annual public welfare institute for negro social workers at the Thursday evening session to be held here in the First Baptist church (negro). Mrs. W. T. Bost, commissioner of public welfare, will preside and musical numbers will be given by the Shaw university choral club. Dr. R. P. Daniel, president of the university, will also speak at this time.

The theme this year is again concerned with the integration of the negro in North Carolina's forward looking programs. The Cheshire Memorial building of St. Augustine college will be the headquarters for the institute. The afternoon session today was featured by a discussion of social case work led by Anna A. Cassatt, director division field social work, state board of charities and public welfare, with Mary S. Labaree, Phyllis S. Oakley, and Ruth L. Stevenson participating.

Wilmington, N. C. Morning Star
March 4, 1937

13 WPA PROJECTS APPROVED BY COAN

Large Negro Recreational Center in Raleigh Included in New Jobs

RALEIGH, March 3.—(AP)—George W. Coan, Jr., state WPA administrator, announced today the approval of 13 relief projects in North Carolina, including a $104,506 negro recreational center here.

Other projects, with the cost in federal and sponsors funds, follow:

Gastonia, street improvement $17,658; Concord, street improvement, sewer lines and house connections, $11,984; Carter's Cross Roads, Gates county, building community house, $2,442.51; Berryhill, Mecklenburg, constructing frame and brick veneer school building, $6,513; Lumberton, cleaning public school buildings, $2,114; Newton, operating stone quarry and rock crusher, $4,929; Friendship, Guilford, constructing addition to and renovating building at Lindley field airport, $11,560; Statesville, sanitary sewers, $2,609; Mount Airy, constructing school building, $5,899.52; Goldsboro, $20,081.50, storm sewers; Henderson, $8,163, completing national guard armory, and Clinton, street repairs, $7,462.

Rocky Mount, N. C., Telegram
April 14, 1937

NEGROES PLANNING COMMUNITY CENTER

Nell Hunter to Direct Music Festival On April 26

One of the most inspiring music festivals ever to be presented here by Negroes, will be held in the Booker T. Washington high school auditorium, Monday night, April 26. The singers will be under the direction of Mrs. Nell Hunter, nationally known Negro singer, who is now connected with the Federal Music project of the Works Progress Administration.

The festival is being sponsored by the Civic Forum, local Negro organization, and the proceeds are to go towards the erection of a community center for Negro citizens. The program will be the beginning of a concerted drive to raise funds to match a Federal grant of approximately $10,000 for the building.

The choir is composed of local talent from various musical units and has been rehearsing regularly for several weeks, and is now putting on the finishing touches for one of the most captivating musical performances ever to be staged here.

The advance sale of tickets will go on sale here Saturday afternoon it was announced today.

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
April 27, 1937

Negro Preacher Wants Congregation In On Social Security For 'Social'

The county welfare department is not the only organization that is making plans for the social security law which goes into effect July 1. A certain negro church is also expecting to take steps just as soon as the law gets to working, according to Mrs. Louise Neikirk, county welfare superintendent.

Several days ago, a distinguished old negro entered Mrs. Neikirk's office on courthouse square, and began to ask questions about social security.

"It is this way," he said, "I am a minister of the gospel, and I have a flock of several hundred. Now about one-fourth or maybe one-third of my flock are 65 years old or older. They are, therefore, eligible for the old age pension under the social security law. What I want to know is how soon will the aged members of my flock begin to draw their $30 a month?"

Mrs. Neikirk explained, as she does hundreds of time every few days, that there is no such thing as an old age pension. Payments to persons over 65 years of age are based on the needs of the individual, and are paid only to those persons who are out-and-out objects of charity. Social security is nothing but charity such as has been dispensed for years by the counties of the State. Under the new label, however, the State and Federal governments contribute to the charity payments made by the county.

After she had explained to the "minister of the gospel," he nodded his understanding, and then asked, "Do you know just exactly when the payments, such as they are, will begin?" Mrs. Neikirk told him she was unable to give the exact date.

"Well ma'am," said the old man, "I just wanted to know. We are planning a rally day at our church, and we wanted to know when the government begins to pay out that money so we could set the day just afterward."

"I gather you expect to pass the hat at the rally day," Mrs. Niekirk said.

"Yes ma'am, we thought that would be a good time," the minister answered.

Negro Women's State Meet Scheduled for Week's Sessions in City.

The Fifteenth annual conference for Negro women of North Carolina sponsored by ladies of the state Presbyterian synod, will be held at Winston-Salem Teachers College from June 1 through 7

Expected to attract approximately 150 Negro women who are prominent civic leaders of their race in various North Carolina cities, the sessions will feature talks and round-table discussions on a number of modern racial, health, and political problems.

Program plans are under the supervision of Mrs. E. F. Reid, of Lenoir, who will release the complete seven-day schedule within a few days. Local chairman for arrangements is Mrs. J. Paxton Davis, who said today that the sponsors are hoping the sessions will be the most helpful yet projected.

Negro teachers, welfare workers, nurses, and laymen will converge here for the fifth straight year. The sessions were inaugurated 15 years ago at the Johnson C. Smith Negro University in Charlotte, and were held there until 1932, when the sponsors moved them to Winston-Salem.

City health officer R. L. Carlton said today that the local department has been requested to furnish a daily speaker to discuss health topics with the women. Thirty-minute addresses will be delivered every morning by local health officials as part of the program.

Winston-Salem, N. C., Sentinel
May 3, 1937

ANNUAL NEGRO CONFERENCE

Chapel Hill, N. C., Weekly
June 18, 1937

Negroes Have Gardens

Conducting a Project Which Will Provide Fresh Vegetables

Led by Nurse A. D. Compton and their Garden Clubs, the negroes of the neighborhoods of Chapel Hill are conducting a garden and nutrition project which, it is hoped, will provide an adequate supply of fresh vegetables to all of the homes represented. The families of 164 pupils of the graded school have enrolled and are trying to grow enough vegetables to keep themselves supplied during the summer and fall and to allow a surplus for canning.

Seeds and plants are being freely exchanged, and Minnie Caldwell Douglas has contributed the use of 7 acres of ground for those families which have no garden plots of their own.

Nurse Compton states that here is a need for additional seed and plants, and requests all citizens of the community who can spare any to turn them over to her at 313 Lindsey Street, or to the president of one of the Garden clubs. These presidents are:

Club No. 1—Callie Stroud, Merritt Mill Road.

Club No. 2—Alice Jones, Sunset Drive.

Club No. 3—Alease Winston, 311 Lindsey Street.

Rocky Mount, N. C., Weekly News
May 28, 1937

NEGRO COMMUNITY CENTER IS SOUGHT

City Is Asked to Provide $15,000 Toward Negro Recreational Building

Proposals for a Negro recreational center here will probably be presented to the board of aldermen at their next meeting, it was learned from city officials today.

Plans for the approximately $24,000 Negro gymnasium and community center building were laid before city officials Monday afternoon by a delegation of leading Negro citizens, including Dr. G. W. Bulluck and Dr. L. P. Armstrong.

George P. Backus of Raleigh, state director of Negro recreational work, presented the proposals to city officials in City Manager L. B. Aycock's office. Mrs. Fairy P. Bandy, supervisor of the WPA recreational office here, and F. S. Lane of here, district supervisor of WPA contracts, were also present.

Of the cost, $9,000 would be given from WPA funds and the petitioners Monday were seeking a sponsor for the remaining amount of approximately $15,000. Whether the city will furnish that amount or part of it was regarded by observers at the conference as highly important to the securing of the recreational center.

The plans presented visualized a 75 by 130 foot building, brick veneered, housing a gymnasium, game rooms for basketball and other sports. It would be convertible also into a Negro community center.

Social Conditions, Improvement of - 1937

Ohio.

Slum Project In Cleveland Complicated

Two Structures Being Erected In Negro Neighborhoods

1-30-37

Pictures on Page 5)

CLEVELAND, (ANP)—During last spring an investigation was made regarding a proposal to bar Negro tenants from the Cedar-Central Federal housing project. Indications following this investigation were not convincing enough to guarantee that the proposal would not be attempted, although officials assured inquirers that no such practices had been or would be attempted.

Satisfied with this statement, effective methods proposed to block the attempt were withdrawn. In the meantime under-cover and unaccusable methods were initiated to discourage Negro applicants.

The property on which the Cedar Central project is constructed was formerly a neighborhood of colored homes or at least houses occupied by Negroes. The removal of Negroes from these scores of dwellings added to the housing perplexity. Families were crowded into small and undesirable lodgings. The congested Negro section looked with hopeful relief to the completion of this mammoth housing unit. We cannot say definitely that the completion of the project has been purposely delayed, but indications are that this is highly probable.

Approximately 15 blocks farther into the Negro district the Outhwaite Housing project is also being constructed. Both would hardly solve the housing problems among Negores. But citizens could look forward to considerable relief if access to both were to be given to Negroes. The Outhwaite project starting many months behind the construction of the Cedar-Central, is being rushed to completion, which also adds to the relief from anxiety and necessity.

Inspection reveals that there is a decided difference in the materials used in the construction of the projects. A definite attempt is being made to encourage Negro applicants for the projects (especially those who have registered for the Cedar-Central) to apply for occupancy in the Outhwaite. Many who have sent in application for the Cedar Central have been sent blank application for the Outhwaite.

Authorities took precaution not to officially reject the Cedar-Central applications sent in by Negroes, but to encourage, by the above method, application for the Outhwaite.

To further this scheme, places where applicationes for the Outhwaite can be posted or signed have been designated throughout the Negro section, one not very far from the Cedar-Central. Gordon Simpson, a familiar and well known Cleveland Negro, is placed in charge of this project, while a white man is placed in charge of the Cedar Central.

NEGROES PUZZLED

Hundreds of Negroes are under the impression that there will be Negro tenants in the Cedar-Central project when it is completed. But with the completion of the project only a short time off, no Negro applicants have been notified of being accepted.

Looking into the depths of the situations we see a peculiar piece of maneuvering. Local housing authorities knew then an open refusal to Negro applicants would arouse the fight and ire of the citizens and organizations, who had good chances to block their plans. Their method of keeping them out was instituted so as to keep Negroes thinking there would be no bar until the project was completed and occupants selected. By this time the Outhwaite project would be near enough completion to accept applications for it.

Ralph Mulligan, Teamster and Arthur Hassert, C. P., Cincinnati Heroes

OHIO RISING

Negro, Working Class Areas Hardest Hit by the Flood

1-23-37

By Robert Gunkel

(Special to the Daily Worker)

CINCINNATI, Jan. 27. — Cincinnatians like to remember that French explorers of this valley gave to the Ohio the name of "The Beautiful River." But I have seen the Ohio no longer a beautiful stream but a madly raging torrent sweeping all before it, hurling its waters into the heart of working class Cincinnati to exact a costly toll of human suffering and destruction that has affected the entire population.

Cincinnati is called the city of hills, but its most densely peopled areas are in the "Basin," in Little Miami and in Mill Creek Valley, here live thousands of the poorest workers. Here also in West End live the majority of Cincinnati's great Negro population. And these are sections which have borne the brunt of the worst flood in local history.

Mere figures, bald facts do not convey the magnitude of the crisis. Five hundred city blocks have been devastated, 65,000 people have been driven from their homes, electric power shut off, water is rationed, normal sanitary arrangements disrupted, a state of emergency exists throughout the city, with all governmental power lodged in the hands of one person, City Manager C. A. Dykstra. He has created a "disaster council" composed of industrialists and business men without including a single representative of labor or the Negro people.

PORT OF MISERY

As I write, the water still advances, seizing in its clammy grip great thoroughfares of working class sections of the city. Saturday night I stood at the corner of Armory and Freeman in the midst of territory that normally houses thousands of the poorest Negro and white workers. Freeman Avenue on ordinary Saturday nights is a beehive of people swarming in and out of small shops and groceries buying their week-end supplies, meeting their neighbors, laughing, talking, getting a glass of beer, celebrating the end of another week of toil.

But this Saturday there was no laughter or gayety on Freeman Avenue. A heavy fog held the street in its grip and grim silence punctured only by the occasional rumbling and sloshing of a truck bringing relief supplies, for Armory and Freeman, ordinarily a mile from the river, had by Saturday night become a section of waterfront and its ordinary frequenters were arriving, not by way of a leisurely Saturday night walk but by rowboat. There were now no market baskets but only hastily filled suitcases or perhaps a cheap radio snatched from the advancing waters. Armory and Freeman had become a port of human misery.

SEEKING REFUGEES

On the western side of Freeman at this point a garage had been turned into a boathouse from which hastily constructed john-boats and skiffs in insufficient numbers were sent out to search water-channeled streets and their rickety dwellings for refugees. All left their homes with greatest reluctance. Many refused to go, even with waters lapping at the second floor. Brass-hat relief officials, smug in the assurance that their own hill-top homes would not be touched and unable to understand the regret of workers at leaving behind a few belongings separating them from utter destitution, publicly sneered. But workers manning the boats, laboring with patience and class understanding, cheered, consoled, persuaded, until the endangered were taken out.

The work of rescue was difficult and dangerous. The boats themselves were makeshift things with the exception of an occasional power launch. And the cross currents and eddies racing through gorge-like streets were hard to navigate. Pulling up to an entry way was a difficult feat, and chilled rescue-workers often snagged their shaky craft in fences and loose wires. Boats capsized, throwing them into the icy waters. Two members of the Young Communist League operating a boat from Armory and Freeman had to be rescued but, dried out and reclothed, they returned to the oars.

NOT ENOUGH BOATS

Due to lack of foresight on the part of authorities, there were not nearly enough boats. But through the heroic activity of these Young Communists and many other devoted workers, a steady stream of refugees was brought to Armory and Freeman, where they were taken to a hastily established relief station.

There they received dry-clothing and steaming coffee. As the waters steadily surged forward this was moved from one location to another, at midnight it was established in Pilgrim Mission a few doors south of Armory. The mission is a barren store room with a stove, some benches and a piano. Here bedraggled flood victims sat desolately, trying to get warmth into their bones and hoping desperately that some chance might save their abandoned furniture and other possessions from the tawny flood. As fast as other arrangements could be made they were taken away to other parts of the town to make room for new arrivals. At two o'clock, however, water rose so rapidly on Freeman that Mission was threatened. Rapid inquiry brought the opening of a church two blocks away at Clinton and Baymiller and all activities were transferred there.

Here, at the moment, it remains. But with heavy waters reported at Pittsburgh and a higher crest certain at Cincinnati a much larger area may be affected and a further retreat made necessary.

TYPICAL OF WHOLE AREA

This picture of the suffering and work of rescue at Armory and Freeman is typical of entire congested area where some have drowned or died of exposure where thousands of men, women, children and little babies have been driven from their homes and possessions into barrack-organized schools, churches and other public buildings. Poorly-clothed and on short rations there they sit wondering if present relief supplies will hold out and brooding over a future of destitution. To comfort them the politicians of capitalism have nothing better to offer than a repeition of their idle chatter about flood control in the future.

At one emergency station an old Negro worker unable to sleep, sought an explanation for the disaster that had befallen him. "There has been too much sin," he declared, and indeed there has been too much sin—the sin of greed and criminal neglect.

In 1925, when charterites drove the Republicans from City Hall and established what has been nationally touted as "good government," they had in their program a plank calling for flood-control, but today, 12 years later, this remains an unfulfilled promise out of tender regard for the purses of the rich who would have to pay the bill.

NO PREPARATIONS

This indifference and lightheartedness was shown even in the fact of immediate disaster. The Cincinnati flood stage is reached at 52 feet but even when the Ohio has gone beyond 60 and was lapping its way into streets of west-end and of the Mill Creek Valley Mayor Russell Wilson took to radio to assure the country that Cincinnati was quite all right. Nor did he stop there but invited visitors to come with the assurance that they would be perfectly safe with all facilities in normal order.

As a result of this attitude there did City Manager Dykstra issue his was no effective preparations for emergency proclamation and utiliz dealing with emergency and no co- public authority for effective action ordination by public authority of C. P. MOBILIZES FOR RELIEF individual departments and private groups in their effort to stem tide of growing distress. On the flood- ineptitude is that of Cincinnati front all was chaos and confusion small Communist Party. in spite of the splendid efforts of six hours before the City Manager many individuals and groups. And took action the Party called for an not until Sunday night when unpar- emergency session of the city coun- alleled stage of 73 feet was reached cil to deal with food prices, to pro-

Early Saturday it

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mobilized its member-necessary materials and aid. To his

with the task of mobiliz-young teamster who worked 96

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OHIO RISING

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Mere figures, bald facts do not convey the magnitude of the crisis. Five hundred city blocks have been devastated, 65,000 people have been driven from their homes, electric power shut off, water is rationed, normal sanitary arrangements disrupted, a state of emergency exists throughout the city, with all governmental power lodged in the hands of one person, City Manager C. A. Dykstra. He has created a "disaster council" composed of industrialists and business men with-

In cooperation with Mulligan, young Hassert wearing the armband of the Communist Party, supported by his comrades, helped to bring order out of chaos. Boats were secured and men found to man them, food and clothing were secured, particularly through the Workers Alliance which established a depot for their collection. Lodging also was arranged for and soon the work of bringing in the refugees, warming, drying them, feeding and housing them was established on a systematic basis.

In everything Hassert became respected, a leader among Red Cross workers, firemen, police and militia men. And so when on Saturday night a priest attacked Communists on the radio and charged that while they organized aid for "attack on religion in Spain" they were nowhere to be seen on the waterfront, indignation ran high among rescue workers who had learned to admire Hassert and his fellow Communists as the most resourceful and capable organizers of relief tasks. A burly fireman just coming in with a boatload declared that the priest ought to be ducked for such a shameful attack.

RELIEF SPEEDED

Through Hassert's skillful, devoted work a real united front was established on the Freeman Avenue sector of the waterfront. Until Hassert appeared on the scene only about 75 people had been rescued in the course of several days. As soon as he had helped establish order more than 500 were brought in within 12 hours.

This model example of relief work soon became noised about the flood area. Shortly people were coming to Armory and Freeman from other territories because relief work in their own neighborhood was ineffectively handled by Red Cross brass hats. These same brass hats also learned about Communist relief achievements at Armory and Freeman.

Until that moment the station had been an orphan. Suddenly it became the center of their attention. They descended upon it in swarms and attempted to edge the Communists out of the way. They, like the priest, preferred to have people believe that Communists were busy only in "attacking religion in Spain." Even though driving away these efficient allies would have meant increased suffering and even death for many people.

AVOID CLASH

Unsuccessful in edging Communists out, they then demanded that the Communist arm bands be removed. To avoid conflict, this request was complied with, but with arm bands or without them, the Communists made themselves known to refugees and flood workers by their untiring efforts and human sympathies. No maneuvering by the brass hats of the Red Cross could remove the deep impression of respect and admiration inspired by Communist activity.

It is easy to understand why the Red Cross is generally disliked by victims of an emergency like this and by most of the workers it calls into action.

Its brass hats officials are recruited to a great extent from the "social" leaders who act as if they were dealing with so many carloads of hay and lumber, yet without the efficiency with which they would handle those commodities. In contrast stands the warm-hearted, practical and understanding and ability of men like Mulligan and Arthur Hassert, the Communist.

The bulk of the water-surrounded workers have been removed to dry land. But due to the lack of water supply, workers are being forced to catch dangerous surface waters for drinking and cooking in some sections. Artesian water is available at several points but limited transportation facilities make this of limited usefulness. There is every indication that a full restoration of services cannot take place for at least two weeks, possibly longer.

From Cincinnati

By SARA ANITA MACKAY
(Staff Correspondent)

CINCINNATI, Ohio, Jan. 29 — (Special)—This city is a swirling Venice and three-fourths of its population faced imminent danger of disease and fires.

Flood-ravaged Cincinnati's supply of drinking water has already become polluted—even that which is being [illegible] for drinking and cooking. Every effort is being made to halt what threatens to be an epidemic of flu, pneumonia and typhoid.

Eight Are Dead

Eight persons are known to be dead. Three of this number are members of the Race. They were unidentified. Only food stores drug stores and eating places operated as the river rose to an unprecedented mark of the 80-foot crest predicted officially for Friday.

Property damage has already been estimated at seven million dollars and 25 square miles were under water.

Electric power was barely sufficient for hospitals and police communication.

The city council in special session late Monday conferred the emergency powers on the City Manager C. A. Dykstra, while 65,000 homeless crowded churches, movie houses and relief agencies.

Water is Polluted

The supply of drinking water was Dykstra's first concern.

Hardly had he announced that the water would be turned on but one hour daily than the health department warned that the dwindling supply was "unsafe," and must be boiled before it would be fit for human consumption.

Flame-flecked smoke still rose from the soggy ruins of the Mill Creek section, where fire from crumpled gasoline storage tanks did $2,000,000 property damage earlier in the week.

The blaze was under control, but authorities expected it to smolder for at least a few days.

A blaze at the deluxe Riverview apartments burned out several apartments in the basement.

Food and fuel are sufficient in the area for the present, but supplies must be conserved. "Nothing must be wasted," City Manager Dykstra warned residents. Food supplies were received by rail and truck from the North. Gas service is normal and will continue unless the flood breaks a main. There is plenty of gasoline for boats and trucks.

Only one-seventh of the normal demand for electric power is available, this being brought from Dayton, Ohio, 52 miles away, where many industries have been closed to conserve the supply for Cincinnati's use. Additional power will be sought from Springfield, Ohio, and Indianapolis.

Truck Brings Food

After hours of furious effort workmen Monday night succeeded in opening the suspension bridge, connecting Cincinnati and Covington, to travel and immediately 100 trucks laden with food and supplies passed into northern Kentucky. The trucks had been waiting throughout most of the day to cross the bridge. Until Monday the bridge was passable, the Covington end being protected from flood waters by earth and sandbag dikes. Seepage filled the low approach during the night and it was necessary to stop the seepage and pump out the accumulated water.

Dayton, Ky., Hard Hit

Hardest hit of all the communities is Dayton, Ky., lying in a bend of the river opposite the east end of Cincinnati. More than half the town is under water and 5,000 of the town's 9,000 residents have been forced to flee into the hills behind the town. Mayor Fred Mader has appealed to all national organizations for aid.

AGNES HOWELL SUCCESSOR AT WELFARE ASSN.

Will Head Neighborhood Group In Cleveland

CLEVELAND, O., Feb. 5.—Miss Agnes Howell, for the past four years in charge of social work at the Neighborhood House and more recently at the Stewart House, Gary, Ind., doing promotional and community organization work has accepted a position with the local welfare association as successor to Miss Virginia V. Houston who after eight years' service with the association, was recently appointed to the Women's Bureau of Cleveland.

Miss Howell will have charge of neighborhood organization and committee work in her new position. She is no new comer to Cleveland. For three years she was connected with the Woodland Center during which time she took her A.B. degree at Cleveland College and later received her masters degree in social service administration at the School of Applied Social Science at Western Reserve university, specializing in group work and community organization.

Miss Howell is a member of St. Marks Presbyterian church where she was active while in Cleveland. While in Gary, she was particularly active in interracial work with schools and churches, cooperative leagues and adult education and other civic organizations. She will make a valuable addition to the social workers of our group in Cleveland.

HEROES "BORN" AS MUDDY OHIO RAGED

CINCINNATI, Feb. 11—(By Onah L. Spencer for ANP)—Don't worry over the safety of your folks who might happen to live in greater Cincinnati. The Floyd Gibbons radio flood drama was a fake. There was practically no loss of life. Total illness is amazingly low. Thousands have been inoculated against typhoid.

Heroes were born in the muddy water that swelled and raged the town. Colored men like Ernest Logan, who rescued about 20 families, white and colored; Sam Ralston, whose rescue party of four men moved 1,400 marooned people; James Maupin and Harry Tilliver, who rescued 54 people in four days, and Jimmy Anderson, nationally known crooner, who did coast guard duty when the river was at its crest, will long be remembered. There has been only one death directly due to flood conditions. One Negro was shot dead while stealing a few eggs.

To date, the Red Cross has aided 35,075 colored people. Thirty per cent of Red Cross's one thousand chauffeurs are Negroes.

Among Cincinnati businesses most affected by the flood is undertaking. J. C. Battles, local undertaker, reports he has been holding five bodies 10 days awaiting favorable funeral conditions.

Social Conditions, Improvement of - 1937

Pennsylvania.

At the Right—Miss Mary Taber of South Orange, N. J., receives practical instruction in social problems while supervising the sand-box play of a group of Negro children at the Philadelphia settlement house.

NYA's Camps for Girls Had No Color Bars

Harmony Keynote on State Project Just Closed

PHILADELPHIA—Proof of interracial harmony was disclosed on Friday with the closing of the five residence camps which housed 445 girls, of which 402 were white, under the supervision of the NYA.

The forty-three colored girls indiscriminately assigned to the camps participated in all the activities, it was disclosed. The project, launched to provide orientation for unemployed girls between 18-25, was regarded as one of the State's best inter-racial instruments.

The girls lived, worked and studied together at Elvin Inn, Mt. Pocono, Thornhurst, Jumonville, and Warren, for more than two months. Of the fifteen camp counsellors, Misses Helen Cuyjet of Philadelphia and Mary Terry of Pittsburgh, are colored.

Miss Cuyjet was assistant guidance director, co-director of dramatics, teacher of puppet class and supervisor of the beauty shop class. Miss Terry was music counselor in the Jumonville camp. Many girls, by virtue of the training, received in the camps, were able to secure employment.

The colored girls entered wholeheartedly into the camp life, and some became leaders.

In all of the camps where colored girls were enrolled a colored person was included on the staff to aid in the racial adjustment.

Social Conditions, Improvement of - 1937

Social Security

NEGROES FILE PLEA ON SOCIAL SECURITY

1-15-37 New York, N.Y.

Most of Them, Being in Farm or House Work, Are Barred, Urban League Points Out.

PRESIDENT ASKED TO ACT

Memorandum Also Urges Him to Remedy Other Obstacles to Recovery for the Race.

A amendment to the Social Security Act to provide for the inclusion of domestic and agricultural workers has been urged upon President Roosevelt in a memorandum on the Negro working population and national recovery submitted by the National Urban League. The memorandum was made public yesterday at the league's headquarters, 1,133 Broadway. It was sent to the President on aJn. 4.

Because the majority of Negro workers are in domestic or agricultural employments, the benefits of the Social Security Act are denied to them, the memorandum points out. It urges either that the act be amended to include these workers, or that a voluntary plan with a Federal subsidy be created to obtain security beenfits for them.

Other Suggestions Offered

Five other suggestions for integrating the Negro in national recovery are made in the memorandum. They include: Broadening the scope of the Federal Study of Farm Tenancy to include a survey of civil liberties in the rural South; revision of the Labor Relations Act of 1935 to prohibit discrimination by organized labor because of race or religion, and insistence by the Federal Government that no racial discrimination in employment be permitted by contractors on public works construction.

It was urged further that "the Federal Emergency Relief Administration enlarge its machinery for adjustment of racial problems" and that the government increase the number of Negro assistants in its various agencies in order to facilitate the carrying out of the government policy of non-discrimination in relief and work relief.

FERA Report Is Cited

A FERA report is cited to the effect that "Negroes have been displaced from employment at twice the rate of whites, and are being returned to jobs in private industry only one-half as fast as whites," and fear is expressed that in the reduction of relief rolls a large number of Negroes will be "left penniless in a community which is unable or unwilling to absorb them in private industry."

Although the government has in specific instances intervened to prevent discrimination, it is still more difficult in many parts of the country for Negroes to get on either relief or work relief than for white persons, the memorandum asserts.

In the Eastern Cotton Belt, 35 per cent of the whites had work relief and only 18 per cent of the Negroes. The white families received an average of $13 a month relief and the Negroes an average of $7, according to the report.

Engene Kinckle Jones, executive secretary of the league, said in his letter of transmittal that information for the memorandum was gathered through the league's forty branches throughout the country and from reports of various agencies of the Federal Government.

Two Negro Women

If Negro leaders who have been pushing their way to the front during the Roosevelt administration had been half as aggressive in presenting the Negro viewpoint as two women leaders of the group, the cause of the black man here in America would be much further advanced.

Last week we discussed at length the forthright statement made by Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune during the recent Washington Youth Conference. Mrs. Bethune blazed a path that turns on the light of truth as does the noonday sun. Black Dispatch

This week Miss Nannie Burroughs, head of the National Training School, makes a statement to the nation. It follows: 1-23-37

"The Social Security Act does not include domestic servants. Society has always seemed to delight in penalizing those who wear caps and aprons, and work with their hands. It looks down on them. Now, along comes the Federal Government—to which even domestic servants like all other citizens must pay allegiance and taxes—and by a sweeping legislative act of exclusion make domestic workers the mudsill of the new social order. Oklahoma City,

"The Social Security Act denies them any security among the other workers of the nation. The Act is, therefore, unjust and undemocratic. It does violence to the basic principles of democracy. The laws of a true democracy are inclusive and not exclusive. Okla.

"The fundamental idea of democracy is that we are all individual members of the social organism, and as such, each is necessary and essential to the complete working of the whole.

"The Social Security Act fails to recognize and establish the bond of human solidarity in service. A democracy is built to give each person, therein, an equal opportunity to find the place of service that suits his natural bent, capabilities and desires. It then encourages him to function efficiently in his place. Each person functioning in his place is necessary to the life of the whole.

"Domestic workers contribute as much, if not more, to the health, happiness and social welfare of the nation, as any other group. White apron workers are as essential as white collar workers. In fact, they make it possible for the white collar workers to function more efficiently. The Social Security Act should, therefore, make it possible for all classes of workers to enjoy the benefit of the same act of appreciation for service.

Social security legislation that is too good for all classes of workers is not good and strong enough to upheld domocratic ideals. It is an act of injustice to leave domestic workers out of all minimum wage legislation. It is worst still, for them to be left unprotected and thrown on the social dump at the end of a life spent in ministering to those who have been keen to provide for their own social security and excluded the ox that trod out the corn.

"The Social Security Act is class legislation. It is exclusive instead of inclusive. It fails to recognize the only real equality, inherent in a correct interpretation of democracy—that is the equality of service to the living body of humanity. By excluding domestic workers, the Social Security Act denies this basic fact to each of us functioning in his place is necessary to the life of the whole.

"The Social Security Act by its exclusion leaves the millions of domestic workers a greater prey to exploiters who themselves are protected by the act.

"In the Negro race, 85 per cent of the female wage earners are employed in domestic service. They are the economic backbone of the Negro home and the Negro church. They are the most dependable supporters of race enterprises. Without them the race would be bankrupt. Their position in the economic life of the nation must be made more secure.

"Since domestic workers are excluded from the Social Security Act, they will be the victim of lower wages, longer hours and greater exploitation.

"What shall they do to protect themselves? This is a serious question. This seems to be the answer. Domestic workers and those who desire to build a new social order must address themselves to the task of training and organizing the grand army of workers who are engaged in personal service.

"Let us not forget that definite recognition of the value of all types of service lies at the heart of democracy. It constitutes its inner soul; its deepest life. Since domestic servants are necessary to the ideal functioning of the social life of the nation, they are a vital part of the whole social structure. To penalize them by legislative explusion is to disavow this fundamental fact. America needs social legislation that is genuinely democratic. She cannot be secure without it."

SOCIAL SECURITY AND NEGROES

Reforms arouse antagonism. Those instituted under the Roosevelt administration have not proven an exception to the general rule. The hue and cry raised has made it easy for Negroes to assume that all of the laws passed by the Democrats were just more action by the INs to cripple their improvements and cinch their own tenure of office. But a dispassionate examination of the laws passed shows a pattern of permanent beneficial improvement of the lot of the mass-es of toilers of America. 3-6-37

To statesmen and clear thinking people it has always seemed a strange and unnatural anomaly, that in rich America there was never any provision or protection for men out of jobs, whether for incapacity or unemployment. When capitalists were making millions out of the same concerns that benefited by the use of the best years of these employees' lives, leaving them wrecks at the end, it was obvious that somehow the balance was wrong. Commentators and lecturers talked about it. Presidents in other years regretted it. But nobody did anything about it. 1938 and 1939. The employer deducts the 1% for the employee and pays it monthly when he pays his own 1%.

Then Roosevelt came and passed social security legislation aimed at giving every person who works that modicum of protection which society owes to those who help to build and maintain it. Roughly the legislation aims to give aid to needy blind people; to dependent children, whose parents are dead or unable to give them treatment and health

Old age benefits are covered by title VIII of the act. Tax under this section is upon every employer and employee, with certain exceptions, such as farmers, domestics, government employees, etc., which we need not note here. Tax is 1% of the payroll for the employer and 1% of earned for each employee. This rate continues for 1937, For 1937 the tax is 2% of the payroll.

Social Conditions, Improvement of - 1937

Social Security

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Although the government has specific instances intervened to prevent discrimination, it is more difficult in many parts of the country for Negroes to get either relief or work relief than for white persons, the memorandum asserts.

In the Eastern Cotton Belt, 35 per cent of the whites had work relief and only 18 per cent of the Negroes.

The white families received an average of $13 a month relief and Negro working population and national recovery submitted by the league, said in his memorandum was made through the league's forty branches throughout the country.

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"In the Negro race, 85 per cent of the female wage earners are employed in domestic service. They are the economic backbone of the Negro home and the Negro church. They are the most dependable supporters of race enterprises. Without them the race would be bankrupt. Their position in the economic life of the nation must be made

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Then Roosevelt came and passed social security legislation aimed at giving every person who works that modicum of protection which society owes to those who help to build and maintain it. Roughly the legislation aims to give aid to needy blind people; to dependent children, whose parents are dead or unable to give them treatment and health improvements they need; to old people unable to provide the things essential to their existence and to workers temporarily unemployed and needing a stake to tide them over 'til they get another job.

Since the last two affect so many Negroes presently or in their future plans, we might profitably discuss them first and leave the others to a later day.

Old age benefits are covered by title VIII of the act. The tax under this section is upon every employer and employee, with certain exceptions, such as farmers, domestics, government employees, etc., which we need not note here. The tax is 1% of the payroll for the employer and 1% of pay earned for each employee. This rate continues for 1937, 1938 and 1939. The employer deducts the 1% for the employee and pays it monthly when he pays his own 1%.

Unemployment benefits are covered by title IX of the Social Security Act. This action imposes a tax on every employer, who employs 8 or more employees 20 days or more during any one year. The tax is on employers ONLY. In 1936 each such employer was taxed 1% of his total payroll. For 1937 the tax is 2% of the payroll.

What must the worker do about these two provisions that affect his life from now until he dies? First he must realize that the act is just a form of insurance. He must keep up with his record as he does his insurance book. In the real sense it isn't a gift and therefore something he can be indifferent about. Both unemployment compensation and old age benefits are conferred upon him as additional pay and protection for the service he performs in the community.

The act provides that every worker eligible shall have a number registered at Washington and a card issued showing his number. He must first see that he gets registered and that his card is mailed to him. Then he must see that his employer enters his number on his records and identifies his pay with his number. Otherwise when he becomes eligible to collect benefits under the act, he may find that the government can't pay because it can't find any record of his having worked.

If by any chance a worker has not yet received his card, he should write the Social Security Board, Washington, D. C. But before writing, it might be well to ask his employer if he has it. In some cases the card has been returned to the employer. But the worker should not stop until the card is in his hands. After the employer has entered the number, the worker should put his card in his lock box or his stocking under the bed—wherever he keeps his valuables.

This discussion has drawn out so long, perhaps we had better save comment upon the compensation and benefits until a later date. But we may not close without pointing out that the worker and his family are insured against two of the biggest menaces of the ordinary family's existence: unemployment and the time when the man can work no more. The Act gives to the worker a larger and a fairer share of the profits from the united effort of capital and labor. Since 95% of Negroes are workers, it means a distinct aid in the constant struggle with poverty and want that most Negroes must wage.

Experience no doubt will show the need of modification and improvement of the Act. But Negroes must not let politics blind them to the advancement of the masses of America which the Act achieves and guarantees.

For fear some may read this lightly and interpret it as a substitute for insurance they now have, we hasten to say this isn't just that kind. The insurance you get here protects you where ordinary insurance doesn't; keep your insurance.

HOPE FOR DOMESTICS AND LABORERS

We had occasions to revert to the Social Security Act, and its unjust discrimination against classes of citizens most deserving of its benefits. At each opportune time former Gov. Talmadge asserts that the Negro will be the greatest beneficiary of this act. He knows better than this. He is aware of the fact that the Negroes comprise mostly of the class of domestics, laborers and farm helps who are denied any recognition whatever. Like a demagogue, he alludes to them, no doubt, to inflame the minds of those whom he desires to reach in order to bolster his propoganda. Such assertions do not add to the prestige of an ex-governor. It is the greatest hope that these domestics and laborers will be given proper recognition. It is noted that a movement is being made to revamp the Security Act. An advisory council consisting of representatives from the Social Security board and the Senate finance committee has been selected to study the idea of revising the old age pension system. In this consideration, the interest of the ones discriminated against should be favorably acted upon with proper inclusion. Efforts should be immediately made to contact this advisory council in behalf of these domestics and farm laborers, especially.

DAWSON NEGRO ASKS NO PENSION

Those who thought Negroes would make a rush for pension rolls as soon as old enough to qualify, say they were mistaken. Negroes are often heard to express real pride in not needing a pension. One from Dawson wrote a letter stating he has a good job that he has been holding for 16 years, and he is getting along well, notwithstanding his 68 years of age.

Social Conditions, Improvement of - 1937

Social Security

SOCIAL SECURITY

The most widely discussed subject of the day is the Social Security Act. Herewith is a short sketch of what the act is supposed to do. This information is given out by the Social Security Board, with offices located here in Washington.

...FOR WAGE EARNERS

For those now young or middle-aged it provides something to live on when they are old and have stopped working.

Men and women who work in factories, shops, mines, mills, stores, offices, or at any other industrial or business job on or after January 1, 1937, will be earning benefits which will come to them later on in the form of monthly payments from the United States Government.

The amount of the monthly payments will depend on the total amount of wages or salary the worker receives from his industrial or business job from January 1, 1937, to his sixty-fifth birthday. The record of these earnings will be kept in his own "Social Security Account," which has been established by the United States Government and is kept by the Social Security Board.

The monthly payments can go as high as $85 a month they cannot be less than $10. For example: A worker who earns on an average $30 a week, $1,560 a year, for 30 years after 1936 and before he is 65, will receive a check from the government for $5075 a month the rest of his life after age 65. If he dies before he has received any monthly payments, his estate will receive 3½ cents on every dollar of these wages, or $1,638. After 10 years' work at an average of $30 a week, or $1,560 a year, his monthly check will be $25.50, and the death payment will be $546. After 10 years' work at an average of $15 a week, or $780 a year, his check will be $19 a month the rest of his life after age 65. Or if he dies after 10 years' work with $7,800 in total wages, his estate will receive $273. Earnings in excess of $3,000 a year from any one employer are not counted.

All payments will come out of an "Old-Age Reserve Account" set aside in the United States Treasury for this purpose. Monthly retirement payments will be reduced for any month in which the worker is regularly employed after age 65 in industry or commerce.

Meanwhile, the law provides that employers and workers will pay a tax on the workers' wages up to wages of $3,000 a year from any one employer. This tax will be collected by the government from the employers. For three years, beginning January 1, 1937, the workers under this law will pay one cent per dollar of wages. In 1940 the rate is increased to 1½ cents per dollar, in 1943 to two cents, in 1946 to 2½ cents and in 1949 and thereafter the rate is three cents per dollar. This will be taken out of the worker's pay. The employer also pays a tax equal to all the taxes his employees pay.

...FOR WORKERS UNEMPLOYED

A Federal-State plan is provided under which the state pays to the workers weekly benefits to tide them over until they can find work again—provided the state has an unemployment compensation law.

Sixteen states and the District of Columbia have such laws, and more than 7½ million workers in those states are in line for benefits if they lose their jobs

The benefits are paid from state unemployment compensation funds which are deposited in an Unemployment Trust Fund in the United States Treasury. These funds are collected from employers by states and deposited to the state accounts in the trust fund.

...FOR MEN AND WOMEN NOW OLD AND POOR

The act helps the states to provide for them in their own homes when they have no means of support, instead of having them go to the poorhouse. When a state plan for assistance to the aged meets the provisions of the Social Security Act, the Federal Government pays one-half the money granted by the state (up to $30 a month) to needy men and women 65 years of age or older.

Forty states, Hawaii and the District of Columbia so far have accepted these provisions, and more than 1,000,000 old people are now receiving one-half their old-age payments from Federal funds.

...FOR BLIND PEOPLE

When blind people have little or no means of support, the Social Security Act helps the state to provide for them in their own homes rather than in institutions. If the state accepts the plan, the Federal Government shares the cost of monthly payments, fifty-fifty, as for old people—up to a total of $30 per month for each person.

Twenty-seven states have accepted the plan, and about 29,000 blind people are receiving the monthly payments.

...FOR DISABLED WORKERS

For retraining of disabled workers, so that they can earn a living at some other job when they can no longer work at their own, the Social Security Act provides for the states to extend this program.

Forty-five states and Hawaii are now receiving Federal funds under the Social Security Act for this work in cooperation with the Federal Government through the Office of Education.

...FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

The best place for most children to live is in their own homes. To help the states keep them there, when the children have lost father or mother and are living with a parent or relatives too poor to support them, the Social Security Act provides one-third the cost, up to a total of $18 per month for one child and $12 per month for each other child in the same home.

This money is for needy children under 16 years old, and more than 300,000 such children in 26 states and the District of Columbia are now getting the benefits. The states administer the plan in cooperation with the Federal Government through the Social Security Board.

The Social Security Act provides money to help the states carry out their plans for services to children, especially children in rural districts. The Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor is in charge of the Federal administration of three parts of the Social Security Act and approves state plans.

The three services are: (1) maternal and child-health services, to protect the lives and health of mothers at the time of birth and to promote the health of all children; (2) services for crippled children, to find children who are crippled or in danger of being crippled and give them hospital and surgical care and after-care; (3) child-welfare services, to protect and care for homeless, dependent and neglected children and those in danger of becoming delinquent.

...FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

The act provides money, through the United States Public Health Service, for use by the states in extending health services to all counties and localities, especially those that have no such services now; also for training health officers, nurses and other public-health workers to supply these services.

All the states, territories and the District of Columbia are cooperating in this program, and 17 states are working especially to prevent industrial diseases such as silicosis, tuberculosis and industrial poisoning.

Roanoke, Va., World News
June 11, 1937

The Cost of Pensions

Judging by preliminary surveys, old age pensions are going to prove a pretty expensive business for the people of Virginia. The experience of other States cannot be taken wholly as a guide in determining the number of people 65 and over who will be able to qualify. For States in which such pension plans are already in operation do not have as large a proportion of Negroes, as large a mountain population, or as large a number attempting to make a living on sub-marginal lands. Evidence of poverty in some sections may be an argument for the need of assistance for those who have reached the age of 65. But in counting the cost, they must be taken into consideration.

The State commission on old age assistance has been taking sampling surveys. It has a report on Brunswick County, an agricultural section lying along the North Carolina border, between Mecklenburg and Greensville counties. In Brunswick County, a total of 739 persons registered for the sample survey, and 402 of them were found to be eligible for assistance. In Brunswick 41.7 per cent of the whites and 53.8 per cent of the Negroes registered were considered by the investigators to be in need of pension help. Brunswick's population in 1930 was 20,486. The 402 found to be eligible, therefore, represents 2 per cent of the county's population.

If the 2 per cent measure is applied to the State's 2,421,851 people, it would mean in Virginia 48,437 pensioners. To match the $15 a month Federal aid, Virginia and its localities would have to provide $15 a

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
August 11, 1937

Substitute for Slavery Security

Ninety per cent of the applicants for social security pensions in Charleston are reported to be negroes. Until 1861 the forefathers of these negroes had social security. Their owners provided for it. Since 1865 most of the negroes have been free and insecure. The government of the United States, the president and the congress, seeing the failure of the conquering North seventy-two years ago to throw the whole burden of negro support on the Southern whites, have adopted this later measure, and the white Southern people, because a minority of the whites who cannot or do not maintain themselves will have benefits, have swallowed the new national plan which in the South is chiefly a plan for negroes.

month, or $180 a year, for each pensioner, making the cost of old age pensions to this State $8,718,660 a year. And this omits any provision for the 337 persons who registered for assistance, but whose claims were rejected by the commission's investigators, but for whom there would no doubt be a continuing effort made to get them on the roll, thus carrying the pension costs to some $12,000,000 a year.

A more favorable situation was found in Henrico County, adjoining the city of Richmond, where 548 persons registered—324 whites and 224 Negroes, claiming to be 65 years old or more, and in need. Of the total, 396 were found to be eligible after investigation by social workers. Approximately 64 per cent of the whites and 74 per cent of the Negroes who registered were found to be eligible. The 1930 census of Henrico County was 30,310. Four hundred pensioners in a population of thirty thousand means that one and one-third per cent are eligible which, if applied to the whole State, would give a net pension roll of 33,332 people, which at $180 a year would give an annual pension charge to Virginia of $6,000,000.

In the city of Petersburg, with a population of 28,564, a total of 861 persons registered as 65 years of age and over and in need—394 whites and 467 Negroes. Investigators certified 476 as eligible—184 whites and 292 Negroes, giving an eligible list of 1.8 per cent of the population. Applied to the whole State this percentage would give approximately 45,000 pensioners who, at $15 a month, would cost the State $8,100,000 a year.

Two serious defects have developed in some of those States which rushed into old age assistance plans to obtain Federal aid without stopping to count the cost to the State of matching that aid. In some other States, a flat appropriation was made, and the Legislature adjourned. The number of pensioners has so far exceeded preliminary estimates that the awards have had to be prorated. Instead of receiving $30 a month as a joint State-Federal gratuity, elderly indigents in some States are receiving as low as $8 a month. And already political lines are being formed to force the liberalizing of admittance, and the placing on the pension rolls of those who have been rejected by social workers as not meeting the requirements of indigency. Some States, like Colorado, seem in a fair way to bankrupt themselves in their effort to pay pensions to all over 65 years of age; some others have limited their pension rolls to those formerly in almshouses and old folks' homes. Until there is clearer thinking as to what is to be accomplished, all estimates are vague and uncertain. And as Director Shands has pointed out, the few counties used as samples may not give a true cross section of the State as a whole. Conditions in the Southwest, in the Valley, and in lower Tidewater, may vary greatly from those counties in which test surveys have so far been made.

Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
August 11, 1937

Times Have Changed.

A Negro woman has been placed on the old-age pension roll in Tennessee, despite the fact that neither she nor any one else knows her exact age. When she applied for the assistance, and was asked for a birth certificate or some other record to show that she was eligible to receive it, the old darkey replied: "All I's got is my bill of sale."

She produced her "bill of sale." It was a worn and yellowed piece of paper showing that she had been sold by one master to another. She is a former slave, and since slavery ended with the close of the War Between the States seventy-two years ago, she is more than seventy-two. There is no way to determine how far beyond that age she may be, but certainly she is old enough to be eligible for old-age assistance, and she has been paid her first pension.

Not a great many people now living have any clear recollection of the era of slavery or of conditions which existed under that system of human bondage. Perhaps there is no one who is not glad that that era ended long ago. While Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin" showed only the darker side of slavery, and it had a brighter side, it was an institution that never should have existed and the abolition of which no one can regret.

Times have changed and are changing for the better. Negro slavery disappeared nearly three-quarters of a century ago, for which all of us should be thankful. But this generation can not remember the time when there were not numberless elderly men and women, white and colored, whose condition was worse than that of most of the slaves, except that they were not chattel to be bought and sold in the market. Provision now has been made for assistance to these men and women, and perhaps as they draw their pensions they will think of the man who thought of them and determined to help them.

Haleyville, Ala., Spotlight
September 8, 1937

According to Federal Census of 1930, there were 99,240 persons in Alabama 65 years of age or over. Of this number 67, 122 were white and 32,018 were negroes. Up to September 30, 1936, 35,142 had made applications for old age assistance, and 10,062 had been approved by County Departments of Public Welfare

State Paying Pensions To 13,637 Aged

Monthly Benefits Climb With Number Helped; Average Gets $11.13

More U. S. Funds

Alabama Receives Fresh Allocation Of $343,140 From Washington Board

Alabama is now paying old age pensions to 13,637 persons, and paying them an average of $11.13 per month compared with the $10.80 that 10,619 pensioners were receiving Nov. 30, 1936.

Miss Loula Dunn, State public welfare commissioner, revealed the increases yesterday in announcing the National Social Security Board had allocated $343,140 for old age assistance and aid to dependent children during January, February and March.

Of the amount set aside, $245,658 will go to the old age fund and $97,481 to aid of needy families with dependent children.

While pensions have increased, the $11.13 compares with a national average of $18.97 paid in 47 states, Alaska and Hawaii, and the State Department has approved applications of 1,232 persons it has been unable to add to its rolls. In addition, 2,460 applications are in process of investigation.

Other Benefits

The State was giving aid to a 4,861 families having 14,420 dependent children in November, granting an average of $13.25 a month, or $4.47 a child.

This child aid compared with $11.18 being paid in November, 1936, to 5,260 families, or an average of $3.79 monthly a child. The national family average was listed by Miss Dunn as $30.64 a family.

State aid now is being given 331 needy blind persons, who receive an average of $10.10 monthly as compared with a national average of $25.87. This assistance was not in effect a year ago.

Federal grants for old age pensions, child aid, and blind assistance totalled $76,529 in November, compared with $51,466 for the same month a year ago, and State funds increased from $42,535 to $49,088.

Counties Giving More

County contributions to the security program showed the greatest increase, rising from $28,340 in November, 1936, to $48,542 last month. Miss Dunn credited this principally to receipts being derived by counties from State liquor store profits and the two per cent sales tax.

Coincident with announcement of increases in security outlays, Miss Dunn said her department had, with approval of the State Welfare Board, inaugurated a merit basis for employment of personnel, requiring college graduation and social work experience of practically all types of employes.

The National Social Security Board Miss Dunn said, had expressed "particular interest" in standards set by the State Department.

Social Conditions, Improvement of - 1937

South Carolina.

Greenville, S. C. Piedmont
January 14, 1937

OLD NEGRO ASKS SUNDAY CLOTHES

Born Before Civil War, He Can't Attend Church Unless He Gets Some More Garments

Filled with memories of the days when all Southern negroes were slaves, a negro man of about 85 years sat in the city health department office today and begged for decent clothes so that he could go to church.

In a voice cracked and trembling with age, he told Dr. Irving S. Barksdale, city health commissioner, he couldn't attend his beloved church services because he didn't have any presentable clothes.

Questioning him, Dr. Barksdale learned the negro had been born about eight or 10 years before the Civil war, "he wasn't sure which," that he had no close relatives, his wife having died a year ago, and that he was a devout church follower.

Every day, the old negro said, he had a little negro girl read to him from the Bible. He attends the Laurel Creek colored Methodist church, or "the sprinkler church," the old man said in referring to their baptism methods.

He lives on Cedar street with some distant relatives. They don't give him much to eat, he said, and make him sleep on a bare bedstead with threadbare covering.

But he didn't mind all this, he said, if he could only go to church. A native of Laurens county, the man is so bent with age he cannot do any work.

Dr. Barksdale immediately set about getting the old negro some clothes. He needs everything, being clothed today in little better than rags. Dr. Barksdale said he would appreciate any contributions in the way of shoes, an overcoat, overalls, shirts or any other articles.

Sumter, S. C., Item
February 9, 1937

HOUSING NEGRO TENANTS

It is very encouraging to note the many improvements that have been made on tenant houses in Sumter county by landlords, and in some instances, by the tenants themselves. In almost every community there are signs of improvements—a room added, a new roof, new window sashes and screens which add to the comfort and attractiveness of the homes. The landlords who provide good houses for their tenants realize that better results are netted from healthy tenants, and that healthy tenants, very largely, are the results of proper housing conditions.

We do appreciate what has been done for this our largest group, but we must admit that there is much more that should be done about the tenant house and its surroundings. There are still too many so-called tenant houses in the county where a person can stand in the middle of the floor and see the great outdoors in any direction he may look. There are still too many houses without window sashes and screens. We need more sanitary toilets and other outside buildings such as poultry houses and storage structures. Besides insuring the health of the tenants, well built tenant houses add to the beauty of the county. The county will be as attractive as its tenant houses.

The landlords are not always responsible for these conditions. Some tenants are so destructive that the landlords are not encouraged to make improvements. If the tenants will cooperate with the landlords by taking good care of the homes in which they live, we believe that better houses will be provided for them.

We have always encouraged the tenants to improve their homes, and take care of them, and we are asking the cooperation of the landlords in our efforts to make the tenant houses more comfortable and attractive. If the landlords need help, the National Housing Administration is at their service.

Ophelia C. Williams,
Negro Home Demonstration Agent and County Chairman of Better Homes.

Manning, S. C. Times
March 3, 1937

NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION

Camps Established for Girls. Whites and Negroes Are Accommodated.

This and next week mark the end of the first camp period for the two NYA camps for young women beingconducted in South Carolina. Camp Pe-Wil-Bur-Whit-Cade, for Negro girls, closes February 27th and Camp Williamsburg, for white girls, closes March 5th.

The second term for each camp begins with a new group of campers selected from the NYA program of each county. Over a hundred girls will be accommodated at Camp Williamsburg for the second term, while about 75 will be quartered at Pe-Wil-Bur-Whit-Cade, which has smaller facilities.

For more than three months the campers have enjoyed a camp program planned to make them healthier and better fitted to take their places in the NYA program of their respective counties. Beginning with her selection as a prospective camper and continuing through the final physical examination before departing for home, a careful check is kept on the development of each camper. More specifically, the procedure is as follows:

Each county is given a definite quota of campers for each camp. The NYA county supervisor then selects from her program girls between the ages of 18 and 25 years who meet the requirements as to character, education, health and prospective leadership. The county supervisor assumes responsibility for securing health examination, clothing, and transportation for the campers of her county. Upon arriving at camp, enrollees are carefully checked by the camp nurse and physician before being assigned to one of the dormitories.

Having passed the processing procedure, recruits are now ready to be initiated into the rudiments of group living. The camp staff, composed of experienced members, spends some time in studying the records accompanying the applications of the campers. These records, supplemented by personal interviews, enable the staff to group the recruits in similar groups for work, study and play.

The daily schedule at each camp calls for a division of the day into work, rest, study, and play. Each camper devotes her allotted time to each of these activities unless some unexpected happening breaks into the normal schedule. For recreation, tennis, indoor basketball, handball, soft ball and table games are provided. A modest library and class rooms afford an opportunity to read and study. Each camper enrolls for a definite number of courses in social science, English, Hygiene and citizenship. As regular part of the camp program, work projects are maintained at which each camper works a maximum of 70 hours a month. For her work, she receives sufficient funds to care for board, lodging, etc., and in addition, five dollars per month for personal expenses. Realizing that wholesome food is a requisite of a good camp, good food is provided at each meal. In short, nothing is spared to make camp life a safe, a pleasant and a profitable experience for those who attend.

Camp Williamsburg is under the immediate direction of Miss Fay Hudgens assisted by a staff of twelve; Camp Pe Wil-Bur-Whit-Cade is in charge of Mrs Josie Hazel, assisted by a staff of ten. Miss Rebecca Reid, NYA Staff, is general supervisor. These Staffs are indebted to state and local committees, and to WPA and other organizations for making such a program possible.

There were nine NYA girls who had the privilege of attending the first session of the camps for young women in South Carolina. There were five in Camp Williamsburg and four in Camp Pe-Wil-Bur-Whit-Cade. For the next session Clarendon county has been given a quota of six girls. Three white girls and three negro girls.

SARAH BOSWELL,
NYA County Supervisor

Greenville, S. C. News
March 12, 1937

Building Of Negro Houses Is Protested

ANDERSON, Mar. 11.—A controversy over the proposed construction of several negro houses on South Fant street at the rear of the Kennedy street school, an accepted white residential section, is expected to find its way into the regular monthly meeting of the city council tonight as aroused citizens of the section voice their protests to the aldermen assembled.

Just what action, if any, can be taken by the council in preventing the proposed building of the houses is not known, as Anderson has no zoning law in its building code specifying against such an act.

Two Races To Live In S. C. Housing Unit

COLUMBIA, S. C.—Rent schedules for University Terrace, the PWA's modern fireproof slum clearance project for white and colored families in Columbia, will be made public soon by the Public Administrator Harold L. Ickes. This was announced last week by William Smedes Hendley, chairman of the Columbia Housing Authority.

University Terrace, on which construction work is virtually completed, will accommodate the families of 122 Columbia wage workers, both white and colored. Some of the buildings are three-story apartments on Divine Street, facing Melton Field, the athletic field of the University of South Carolina. Others are one- and two-story houses and two-story flats on Blossom St., across from the Booker Washington High School.

To date, more than 200 families, of both races, have signified their desire to live in the new housing development by registering at the office of G. M. McTeer, Columbia district manager for the PWA housing division. The Columbia Housing Authority which will cooperate in the selection of tenants and management of the completed community, is inviting all other low-income families who wish to apply for homes in this project to register at once at the Project Office of University Terrace.

Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
May 10, 1937

Half of White Families At Columbia Get $1,859 Or More Income Yearly

Washington, May 9 (AP)—Commissioner of labor statistics, Isador Lubin, said today one half of all families in Columbia, S. C., received an income of $1,351 or less during the year 1935-36.

The total, he explained, included native white, foreign born and negro families, with each group showing a distinctive income pattern.

"Fifty per cent of the native white families in Columbia, containing both husband and wife, received an income of $1,859 or more during the year," Lubin said. "Of such families the number on relief, together with those having incomes of less than $1,000, form 22.3 per cent of the total, while 45 per cent had annual incomes of $2,000 or more."

Middle Income $1,975

Excluding families which received relief during the year, the report said, the middle income for the native white families with both husband and wife was $1,975. "This relatively high average income may be attributed to the fact that Columbia is the capital of South Carolina, with a large proportion of state employes having relatively regular work," the report added.

"The median income among native white families not on relief varies considerably from one occupation to another," the report added.

The report said 50 per cent of the Columbia negro families with a married couple received annual incomes of $548 or less; 86 per cent had incomes of less than $1,000; and negro families which did not contain both husband and wife showed an average annual income of $220. One fifth of the negro faimlies in the city obtained relief during the schedule year, the report said.

Third Own Homes

Of the families not on relief, approximately one third of the native white and one fifth of the negroes owned their own homes, with the proportion of home ownership differing in various occupational groups.

The report said approximately 21 per cent of the native white families with both husband and wife contained only these two members. Among the negroes, the proportion of two-person families was 27 per cent. Families of five or more persons occurred more frequently in relief groups than among non-relief groups. Such families constitute 27.7 per cent of the non-relief and 44 per cent of the relief families among the native white population. They formed 29 per cent of the non-relief and 40 per cent of the relief families among the negroes.

Anderson, S. C., Independent Tri
June 12, 1937

Negro Community Center Will Be Developed On East Market Street

Under the sponsorship of the National Young Administration, a negro community center will be developed here at a cost of approximately $4,000, it was announced yesterday by Alex Skelton, local NYA director.

The community center will be located directly back of the city barn, on East Market street, on land owned by the city. The cost will fe borne equally by the federal government and local negroes.

Plans call for the erection of a building two stories high with a large basement, at a cost of $3,000. The structure will be approximately 40 feet by 65 feet, and will include an auditorium stage, gymnasium, work rooms, and a community market.

Clearing of the one-acre tract for the building will start on Monday, Mr. Skelton asserted. Much of the work will be done by N. Y. A. employes, it was said.

One of the features of the negro center will be a club market for the use of negro farmers who have produce for sale. This department will be patterned after the white club market, and will be under the general direction of J. A. Gresham, negro county farm agent. The market will probably be open for two days each week.

Other features of the center will be department for teaching manual training to negro youths, with other divisions devoted to domestic science and allied subjects. About 10 negro youths will be paid regularly by the N. Y. A., it was said.

In the meantime, Mr. Skelton said, negroes have already pledged around $1,000 in work or material for the building, and a campaign for raising the remaining $1,000 in cash has been started under the supervision of Dr. W. H. Young. Other committees will be appointed to assist in completing the fund, he was said.

Columbia, S. C. State
July 13, 1937

HENDLEY NAMES NEGRO ADVISORS

On Columbia Low Cost Housing Project.

W. S. Hendley, chairman of the Columbia housing authority, yesterday appointed a Negro advisory committee on housing to work with the Columbia housing authority on plans for the 74 Negro units of University Terrace, Columbia's $760,000 low-rent project.

University Terrace is divided into two portions, separated by a steep terrace. One portion is for whites and the other for Negroes. Applications for dwelling units are now being received at the two application offices on the project.

Typical apartments are being furnished by local furiture dealers for display and are open to inspection by the public between the hours of 9 a. m. and 6 p. m. daily.

Dr. R. W. Nance was named chairman of the committee. Serving with him will be C. A. Johnson, superintendent of the city Negro schools, and Dr. O. J. Champion.

Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
August 3, 1937

MONEY FOR NEGRO CENTER IS SOUGHT

Campaign for Funds to Put Up Recreation Building Is Launched Here

The Negro Civic League has opened a campaign for funds to aid in the construction of a recreation center for negroes on Evins street, it was announced yesterday. The campaign, which opened Thursday and will end Monday, August 16.

Funds raised in the drive will supplement those which have already been donated by the National Youth Administration for the erection of a building of five rooms with basement and as assembly hall. Facilities for the teaching of sewing, cooking and other domestic science studies will be provided.

The NYA authorities estimate that the building will cost approximately $6,000 and are furnishing two dollars to every one dollar donated by the Civic League.

A request has been made of the WPA for funds in the development of the area surrounding the building, which was donated by the Gentry and Cleveland estate for the development of a negro park. Several outstanding organizations and business men have expressed the need for such a project in this community and pledge their support. This movement also has been endorsed by the city council and the chamber of commerce.

Spartanburg, S. C. Journal
August 10, 1937

For Recreation Center

The campaign to raise funds for the construction of a recreation center for negroes on Evins street deserves to succeed. The national youth administration will supplement funds for the purpose of erecting a suitable building and quarters for such an institution, providing two dollars for every one raised locally—the cost of the project to be around $6,000.

The movement is approved by city council and the chamber of commerce. It deserves the support of the citizenship of Spartanburg. Its realization will be a crowning achievement of the Spartanburg Negro Civic league which has already accomplished a number of worthy ends for the race.

Columbia, S. C. State
September 20, 1937

[illegible]allenge to Columbia.

Columbia and Charleston are among the ten lowest in a rating of 64 cities on the basis of baths, electricity and water closets in dwellings, made by the housing division of the Public Works Administration; other factors considered being crowding, state of repair, ownership and fitness for habitation.

The Washington Merry-Go-Round, remarking in today's release this finding, adds this comment:

> "In the case of all the cities with low rating, it was the condition of Negro dwellings which dragged them down."

Let no Columbian, however, no Charlestonian, take special comfort in that footnote! The condition reported for Columbia and Charleston, as to many dwellings occupied by Negroes, does indeed "drag them down," in senses more important than mere statistical rating. Let no white resident imagine for a moment that his own welfare, with his family's, is not continually and markedly affected for the worse by the deplorable situation as to housing and sanitation in which many of his Negro neighbors exist. One, and one only, of the 47 houses displaced by University Terrace, in the heart of this Capital City, had either an inside toilet or a bath-tub—both of which were in the same house. For that matter, no fewer than 4,000 family-unit dwellings in Columbia lack inside toilets.

Columbia's pride in its recent growth must be appreciably moderated until progressive and purposeful improvement in this condition involving thousands of its residents shall be shown.

South Carolina

Social Conditions, Improvement of - 1937

Greenville, S. C. News
October 6, 1937

CHEST EFFORT GETS AWAY TO ROUSING START

$22,576.75 Raised On First Day Of 1937 Chest Campaign

QUOTA OF $69,368 IS GOAL OF SOLICITORS

Special Gifts Committee Leads In Work For The First Day

Undaunted by inclement weather throughout the day, a corps of determined workers embarking on the first leg of the 16th annual campaign of the Greater Greenville Community chest, reached nearly one-third of the $69,369 goal yesterday with a total of $22,576.75 contributed at close of the day's activities.

The army of solicitors, headed by General Chairman James H. Woodside, will take the field at 8 o'clock this morning to continue the drive, with hopes of more than doubling the amount today.

SPECIAL GIFTS

The special gifts committee, of which W. H. Beattie is colonel, led activities the initial day with a total of $7,447.50. being trailed by Division 3, commanded by Major Ben S. Williams, which boasted pledges involving $4,026.35.

Contributions secured by remaining divisions headed by respective majors follow:

Division 1, Major Olin Spann, $2,699.25; Division 2, Major Gardner Watson, $3,477.20; Division 4, Major F. W. Whitlock, $2,575.90; Division 5, Major J. R. Hawkins, $348.50 and Division 6, Mrs. Jack Parker, major $2,001.50.

No report was rendered the first day by the negro division, led by Colonel E. C. Murray, which is expected to swell the amount by several hundred dollars.

The amount contributed this year is considered impressive by leaders who expressed confidence that the goal will be attained.

LAST YEAR'S FIGURES

A total of $25,918.76 was raised the first day in the drive last year. However, of this amount $13,285 represented special gifts which were solicited a week previous to the regular campaign. For this reason, Chairman Woodside pointed out, the comparison between the two would not be representative.

Only $20,914 was raised the first day of the campaign in 1935.

More than 350 workers in the field will hear an address by A. C. Mann, former mayor, this afternoon at the Poinsett hotel at 1 o'clock following the morning solicitation, after which they will reenter the field for additional solicitations.

Vice-Chairman W. E. Thompson who has taken an active part in formulating plans for the drive, is first assistant to Chairman Woodside.

Spartanburg, S. C. Journal
November 2, 1937

Negro Recreation Building Fund

The negro civic league lacks $400 to insure the construction of the negro recreation building, for which project the National Youth Administration has extended aid in supplying both labor and materials. Unless this amount be forthcoming in the immediate future the building project will have to be abandoned. The negro civic league has raised more than $600 for this purpose, and its canvassers, according to officials, will direct a special drive to raise the remaining $400. The negro population needs such a building as a center of activities for the school children of that race. Other cities have such community centers, and the cause should appeal to the friends of the league and the colored people of the city.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
November 4, 1937

$10,391 IN RELIEF SPENT IN COUNTY

$25,890 Welfare Costs are Reported for October. 1,319 Requests Open

More than $25,000 was spent on welfare work in Charleston county during October, it was announced yesterday by the public welfare board.

This total, including the amounts used under the state department of public welfare as well as those for the five institutions under the county board, was contained in the monthly report made to the board by its executive officer, S. Marshall Sanders.

The relief roll in Charleston county drew a total of $10,391.54 in October, an increase of about $4,000 over the September roll. Mr Sanders told the board. The three members, Henry C. Hass, chairman; Charles E. Gibson, vice chairman, and Sidney B. Jones, secretary, were informed that pending investigations are being carried on as rapidly as possible.

"While our staff did exceptionally well last month in their investigations, we find that the pending investigations have not materially decreased," Mr. Sanders reported.

Neediest on Rolls

"At the beginning of the month there were 1,240 requests awaiting investigation and, with all of the work, we find at the end of the month 1,219 requests still pending. We believe, however, that we have managed to place our neediest cases on the payroll and will no doubt find a large number of rejections due to the inability of the clients to qualify under the state law, from now on."

Rules of the state department require detailed investigation before applicants may be added to the relief rolls.

The relief costs of $10,391.54 were divided as follows: 613 cases old age, $6,552; 22 aid to blind, $277; 132 aid to dependent children, $1,896.50; 130 general relief, $1,533.50; general county relief, $76.19, and city emergency relief $66.35.

The remainder of the $25,890.14 October welfare costs consisted of the following allotments: Roper hospital, $7,083.33; Pinehaven, $2,500; county service officer, $200; Hospital and Training School for Negro Nurses, $422.27; health department, $5,260, and commodity distribution, $33.

Commodities on Hand

Garments made in the works progress administration sewing rooms and on hand as of November 1 total 20,676, Mr. Sanders reported. Secured from the surplus commodity distribution of the department of agriculture and on hand as of November 1 were 14,800 pounds of powdered milk; 12,200 Irish potatoes, 53,050 prunes and 6,965 apples.

The expenses of the office for the month of October were $3,089.69, of which $2,350.85 was paid by the state department of public welfare and $738.84 by the county.

Spartanburg, S. C. Journal
November 10, 1937

Negroes to Hold Roll Call Rally

A roll call rally of negro Red Cross workers will be held at Woodward hall at 8 o'clock Friday night, it has been announced here.

The following are workers: Mary Wright, F. D. Young, Addie McWhirter, Azalle McGee, Ora Lee Foster, Emma Reeder, Carrie E. Sims, Carrie Neil Hamilton, Laura Salters, Ruth Nickerson, Lola Mills, Hattie Barksdale, Ruby Sexton, Emily Miller, Ophelia Nichols, Bennie Mae Mandel, Evelyn Jackson, Rev. J. E. Daniels, Rev. W. P. Wingo, Willie Duffy, Ray Foster, Sam Foster, Morris Porter, Connie Chestnut, Lizzie Smith and Florence Tucker,

Also, Annie Mae Chappell, Hettie Williams, Willie Dunham, Ophelia Higgins, Dollie Weston, Addie Thorpe, Bertha Dale, Naomi Thompson, Carrie Arnold, Thelma Gregg, Katherine Moore, Charlie Mae Campbell, Bessie Samuels, Willie Mae Fair, Ethel Carter, Stacy Whitmire and Louise D. Brown.

Social Conditions, Improvement of - 1937

South Carolina.

Columbia S. C. State
August 18, 1937

University Terrace.

A score of families moved into the apartments of University Terrace Monday. They began early in the morning. Trucks rolled up, piled high in funny, irregular outlines. Men disentangled themselves from rocking chairs and kitchen cabinets and began to unload the varied assortments, while women leaned from apartment windows to give directions as to proper disposal of their Lares and Penates.

Beds, chairs, sofas, rugs; the baby-carriage and the bird-cage; the radio and the bookcase; the steamer trunk, the suitcase and the chest of drawers. Mirrors, pictures, whatnots and baskets of their mixed contents. In fact, everything but the kitchen stove. For these are apartments of Columbia's first government housing project, and in keeping with their aim of giving highest comfort at minimum cost, compatible with eventual liquidation of the project, the kitchen stove is part of the equipment provided for tenants.

And such a kitchen stove, too. A gleaming, white electric range, fit companion for the electric refrigerator, deep double sink, the automatic garbage disposal unit, the sanitary floors of composition, silent, resilient to the step but hard enough to last indefinitely. The scientifically planned cross-ventilation in each apartment; the generous closet and storage space, the thoroughly adequate wiring with unusually large number of outlets; the pleasing and harmonious colors used in decoration; the complete, compact and conveniently placed bathroom; the large, well-equipped laundry for the use of residents.

These are some of the details of modern convenience and comfort at University Terrace; there are too many to list all.

This housing project is the local development of a plan by the government to establish groups in various cities throughout the country as a first step in meeting the nationwide housing problem. The aim is, first, to show how slums can be abolished and how low-rent housing in comfortable, well-equipped homes can be furnished to persons of moderate income. The lesson is to be taught by example. University Terrace with its 122 dwelling units renting from $3.75 per week for three-room flats for Negroes and at an average of $24.50 per month for three-room apartments for whites, with heat, hot water and electricity included, is an eye-opener in what homes for those of modest income can be.

Here,too, is an example of that policy of parallel development for the races that wise leaders of both groups advocate in the South. There are healthful and attractive units for Negroes at the southern end of the block, and apartments for whites at the northern end, with a 60-foot terrace between. Both are built according to the best available plans for meeting the needs of the tenants. Both are designed, by making home life more healthful and attractive, to add to the efficiency of workers in office, in store, mill, craft or trade.

The whole project, aiming to keep to wholesome level the standard of living of families in the low income range, is of deepest sociological interest. It attacks at their very roots the bases of many of our social and economic ills. It endeavors to encourage and to keep intact that fundamental unit of society, the family.

Aside from the fact that the removal of a block of slum dwellings, between the state university and the leading Negro high school and their replacement by modern, sanitary and attractive buildings and grounds, makes a definite and concrete improvement in the city of Columbia, the exemplification of adequate and attractive living quarters at rents within the range of many who have heretofore been unable to secure such, is among the most interesting and encouraging developments of America's increasingly socialized outlook.

Columbia's Housing Authority, consisting of five citizens appointed by the mayor, has engineered the $760,000 project from its conception to its completion, and without in a single assistance calling on anyone in congress for political influence. The plan was submitted on merit and so accepted. It is one of the first in the United States in which every dollar is from federal funds. A Columbia architect, James B. Urquhart, designed the block of buildings, but construction was by the United States through the housing division of the public works administration, handled just the same as the erection of any other public building. Now the government will operate it, with employes directly responsible to and paid by the government out of the rentals, which are arranged so as to amortize the expenditure, along with a grant, in 60 years. The housing authority, which has given hours and hours of time to University Terrace, continues in an advisory capacity, as the connecting link with the government authorities. Composing it are: W. S. Hendley, chairman; Geddings H. Crawford, S. L. Latimer, Jr., L. Cooper Smith, and E. C. Coker, with D. W. Robinson as attorney and John A. Chase, Jr., as secretary; all without pay. Throughout Mayor Owens and other city officials have co-operated whole-heartedly.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
September 20, 1937

A Few Heretical Remarks

Already "slum clearance" projects" have been completed in forty-odd cities. "Nice houses" have been built. That they have been built, in this part of the country, for "the lowest income groups" is, of course, bunk. The low income negro family in Columbia, Charleston, does not and cannot pay $17 a month rent. Everybody knows that. There are white families, hundreds of them who cannot pay $24.50 a month. Everybody knows that. Nevertheless, a "housing project" is a good thing for a town. It gives employment to bricklayers, painters, carpenters, plumbers. It does help the city. It is juicy.

Now The News and Courier is going to be deliberately disloyal. It believes that the housing projects were better placed ten, fifteen, miles from the city, where land is cheaper. Automobiles and distributed power make the scattering of population advisable.

It were better that a family have an acre or five acres at Hopkins or Ballentyne, miles out of Columbia, than a tenth of an acre in Columbia and exactly the same argument applies to Charleston, to every city in the United States.

Would not the negroes in Harlem be happier and healthier if in New York state were a hundred Harlems instead of one? Yes, and when the negrose in tens of thousands begin to settle throughout "Upstate" New York, there will be more "hell breaking loose" n those districts than was ever known in Mississippi.

Still, if from the treasury of the United States more money should be provided to build houses in Charleston, whether at $5,000 or $50,000 a house, it would be good for business in Charleston.

The News and Courier is a heretic and does not believe in taxing all of the people to build houses for some of the people, wherefore it may be said that The News and Courier is not a Democrat but a Republican.

However, more Republicans than Democrats in the house of representatives voted finally for the Wagner housing bill, which is a Roosevelt measure.

Lancaster, S. C. News
October 15. 1937

SOCIAL WORKERS MEET OCTOBER 26

Dr. D. P. Brown of Columbia, state president of the South Carolina conference of social work, announced Tuesday that a family welfare institute would be held at the University of South Carolina Tuesday, October 26, in connection with the 28th annual conference.

The institute will be under the general supervision of Miss Cora Bowzee, regional secretary of the Family Welfare association of America.

There will be two sessions, one in the morning from 9:30 to 12:30 and another from 2:30 to 5:30 in the afternoon. Prof Frank J. Bruno, director of the School of Social Work, Washington university, St. Louis, Mo., and Miss Elizabeth Porter of the staff of Tulane university, School of Social Work, and the Family Welfare society of New Orleans, La., will lead the institute.

Miss Mary Wheeler, chairman of the program for the state conference, is making the local arrangements for the institute. The 28th annual convocation of the South Carolina conference of social work will open with a dinner the evening of October 26 in the ballroom of the Jefferson hotel. Eleven associated conferences will meet in connection with this state organization: The state department of public welfare, the works progress administration, social service workers, Community Chest executives, South Carolina commission on child health and protection, division for crippled children, state board of health, South Carolina Inter-Racial society, school of social work of the University of South Carolina, South Carolina chapter of the American Association of Social Workers, South Carolina Mental Hygiene society, Travelers' Aid society, institutional workers and the adult education group of the state department of education. Other groups are working on programs but have not sent them to the conference office.

Columbia, S. C. State
September 10, 1937

Living Standard Survey Among Sumter Negroes

BY P. H. McGOWAN.

Washington, D. C., Sept. 9.—A living standards study of 636 Negro families of Sumter, S. C., for the year 1935-36 showed an average income of $564 to cover the expenses of an average family of 3.9 persons.

Sumter, site of a Negro college and with a population almost half Negro, was one of two small Southeastern cities selected for a study of Negro families by the bureau of home economics of the United States department of agriculture, under Dr. Louise Stanley.

Studies of Negro families were also made in another small city, in 34 Southeastern villages and on farms. In connection with this bureau's living standards study of 19 small cities, 140 villages and 66 farm counties.

"When completed, this study will constitute the first adequate nation-wide survey of how much income small city, rural and village families receive and how it is spent," said Doctor Stanley. "As home economists, we are, of course, especially interested in finding out what kinds of living various incomes are buying. For instance, we want to know whether the amount spent for food is sufficient to purchase a diet adequate for health."

At Griffin, Ga., the other small city in which Negro families were studied, an average income smaller than that at Sumter was found for a family of the same average size as at Sumter. For the 349 Griffin Negro families interviewed, the average income was but $497. The method was the same in both cities. The families were picked at random by ringing the doorbells of enough Negro homes so distributed as to secure a satisfactory cross-section of the Negro population.

Seventeen per cent. of the Sumter Negro families had been on relief at some time during the year studied. Of the non-relief families, 95 per cent. received an income of less than $1,500 a year, as against 99 per cent. at Griffin.

None of the Negro families studied at Griffin were reported in the "$2,000 and over" income classification whereas 19 of the Negro families interviewed at Sumter received as much as $2,000 a year, and two of these families received $3,000 or more.

In the non-relief group, wage-earning families numbered 468 as compared with business and professional, 50, and clerical, ten. At Griffin, also, wage-earning families greatly predominated.

Sixty per cent. of the Sumter Negro families had more than one earner. While this was a higher percentage than was showed for native white families in any of the 12 small cities thus far analyzed, it was lower than the figure for Negro families at Griffin, where 72 per cent. of the families had more than one earner.

In the Sumter Negro study, families reporting as renters numbered 463 as against 135 reporting as home owners. In both these groups, the one-family house was the rule, and any other type of housing the exception.

Average monthly rent paid by the Sumter Negro families was $6, compared with $7 reported by the Negro families studied at Griffin, Ga., although the average income at Griffin was smaller than at Sumter.

But six of the Sumter Negro families paid as high as $15 in rent, and none paid so high as $40; 118 families paid under $5; 300 paid $5 to $9; 33 paid $10 to $14.

Only families having both husband and wife were included in this study of consumer purchases, a works progress administration project in which the bureau of labor statistitcs of the United States department of labor, the national resources committee and the central statistical board also participated.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
October 1, 1937

Not for the Very Poor

The federal housing projects in Charleston and Columbia have been excellent undertakings for the two cities. Anyone who builds good houses in a city helps it, and The News and Courier is not insensible to the favor conferred by the federal government upon Columbia and Charleston, however it believes house-building none of government's business.

No good reason exists for government to be a hypocrite in this matter. When it talks of these projects as for the "lowest" or the "very low" income groups it deceives no one. None of these houses are for the very poor.

In truth, only the "upper class" negroes can pay the rents for these houses, and the federal government's influence has been to establish for negroes in Southern cities rather exclusive, or aristocratic, settlements. Relatively, the Southern negro who can pay $16 or $17 a month for a dwelling is an economic royalist in his race.

The $24 or $25 a month houses are not for rich white people, but they are certainly not for the poorest.

Except with the dole, or relief, the federal government has done virtually nothing for the very poor in the South. It is not concerned for them.

Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
October 26, 1937

A True Story

It happened in Spartanburg. Last week at the intersection of East Main and North Church streets a blind man was making his way eastward. Standing on the corner were several men who must have heard the noise made by the pedestrian's stick as he groped his way along the sidewalk. They saw him when he arrived at the Church street curb, but not a hand was raised to help him cross to the opposite side.

It chanced that a Negro laborer, with lunch box in hand and overalls in a bundle under his arm, crossed East Main and arrived on the corner just as the blind man was stepping from the sidewalk to the street pavement. Without hesitation he took the arm of the afflicted man, guided him to safety across the street and said: "You are all right now. Go straight ahead."

You may not think that could happen in your city, but it did. One who witnessed the incident was impressed with the thought that there are two groups of persons. One is considerate of the misfortunes of others and always wants to aid them. The other group consists of persons who are inconsiderate and will not turn a hand to aid those in distress.

We think the story may be applied to the situation in Spartanburg at this time. A large group of citizens is endeavoring to raise a fund to aid the aged, the hungry, the sick, the orphans, within our gates. They have worked hard for a week to interest all citizens in this commendable enterprise known as the United Campaign. They have been remarkably successful but about ten thousand dollars is needed to complete the fund.

These campaign workers and subscribers are doing work similar to that done by the laborer who aided the blind man to cross a street and avoid automobile traffic. There is another and much larger group of persons in the city who have closed their ears to the solicitation of campaign workers. They are those of whom it has been said: "There is none so blind as those he will not see." May not this larger group be compared to the men who would have permitted the blind man to walk out into the traffic on a busy street without extending a helping hand to save him from possible injury or death?

Greenville, S. C. Piedmont
October 20, 1937

Live In Trolleys

Unheralded in the press, a new "residential development" has arisen in Greenville. Nine houses, as similar as two peas in a pod, have been set up on Gibbes street, on the banks of Reedy river, and will be used to house negro families.

The houses are identically alike for they are the street cars which in the past have hauled thousands of Greenvillians. The exterior will be the same, of course, but partitions are being installed and other efforts made to give the former street cars a home-like appearance.

The unique homes are resting on piles of cross ties to keep above the water, as the Meadow frequently overflows. J. P. Williamson, head of the Dixie stores, said the old trolleys have attracted much attention. "Some persons have called here, wanting to know what we paid for the trolleys, if we could get more and so forth" he said. "Of course we told all that we did not own the trolleys, that we did not know who did, and did not know what price was paid for them. All we know is that they are being so up, apparently as homes, here in sight of our offices."

Gibbes street, scene of the unique settlement, is just off Hudson street, on the eastern banks of Reedy river.

Social Conditions, Improvement of - 1937 Tennessee.

COLORED NURSES SAY RED CROSS PAY IN MEMPHIS IS UNFAIR

Memphis, Tenn., March 12—Negro registered nurses employed here by the American Red Cross during the flood emergency were paid $3.50 a day while white registered nurses were paid the standard Red Cross rate of $5.00 a day.

This differential was readily admitted to Roy Wilkins, N. A. A. C. P. investigator by Mrs. Mathewson assistant to Miss Badger, chief of nurses for this area. Showing some surprise at a question about difference in pay, Mrs. Mathewson did not hesitate a minute or try to evade or explain.

"Of course the Negroes get less pay," she said, "They can live cheaper than white nurses."

She was asked whether the Red Cross paid according to grade of work or according to what it thought workers could live on. She simply shrugged her shoulders and said in her heavy southern accent "Well, that's the way it is and that's the way it is going to be."

Dr. H. S. Nimmhard, chief of Red Cross doctors for this area, denied Negro doctors were offered $200 a month for 12 hours a day, giving up their practice, while whites were offered $350 a month for five hours of work a day. Dr. Nimmhard said most doctors donated their services that only a few were paid and these at the rate of $150 a month.

Oxford, N. C. Ledger
May 25, 1937

Community Center For Colored Folks Opens Next Monday

(Prepared for the Ledger)

The WPA Recreation Project of Oxford for Negroes announces the opening of Community Center to be used during the summer for the benefit of the leisure time of the adults and children. The center is located on Herndon avenue in the Odd Fellows building.

Starting Monday, May 31, the center will open at 9:30 a. m. and remain open until 7 p. m. each day of the week. The center has a reading room, handicraft room and music and game room, with trained leaders to help make play and [illegible] for the leisure time habits of the community.

To the citizens of Oxford and Granville county we wish to extend an invitation to each of you to come out and spend your leisure time with us at play and in the crafts and arts. We also ask of you to support us in making this center one of the best of its kind in the state, and we will gladly accept any contribution you can afford to give, books for our reading room, tools for the handicraft room, music and games of any type. Your contribution will show your interest so let us know by them how interested you are in your local community center.

Social Center To Be Project For Negroes

Nashville, Tenn. Banner
May 13, 1937

The Bertha Fensterwald Settlement House at 503 Fifth Avenue, North, which has served white persons since it was built in 1901, is to become a settlement house for Negroes, under the direction of the department of social science at Fisk University, it was announced today by Dr. Walter L. Stone, director of planning and research for the Nashville Council of Community Agencies.

The house will be closed for repairs and renovation during July and August, and will probably open for regular service in September. The white persons formerly served by the settlement house are to be transferred to the Centenary Methodist Institute Settlement House at 612 Monroe Street.

The change has been approved by the board of directors of the Community Chest, which will continue to contribute $3,600 for the operation of the house. Collaborating on the plans for the new Negro center are Mrs. Bernard Fensterwald of the Bertha Fensterwald Foundation; R. H. Lyle of the Community Chest; Dr. Stone and Charles S. Johnson, Negro, director of the Fisk University department of social science.

Fisk will contribute $4,800 to the operation of the house, making a total of $8,400 for personnel and maintenance each year.

Included in the center will be health and dental clinics, a children's section, a music and art room, a clubroom for women and girls, a work shop, a library, a kitchen, and a gymnasium-auditorium.

The change was deemed advisable inasmuch as the section in which the house is located has changed from white to Negro residents since the center was built, Dr. Stone explained.

Chattanooga, Tenn. News
August 21, 1937

Negroes Urge Completion Of Slum Project

Resolutions urging local authorities to press to completion Chattanooga's request for the $2,000,000 College Hill slum clearance project, to improve housing conditions among Negroes, will be drawn at a meeting early next week of the Men's Service Club, colored, William Warren, president, announced Saturday.

"Our city has the poorest housing facilities of any of the larger cities of Tennessee and this area," Warren said. "Atlanta has completed its slum clearance construction for colored people; Memphis' is nearing completion, as are Nashville's and Birmingham's and with the latest half-billion appropriation passed by the House of Congress, we certainly should come in."

Action is expected next week from other sources among the colored people interested in better housing and health. According to H. W. Newell, East Ninth Street business man, the matter will be brought before the next meeting of the Seventh Ward Voters' Club of which he is president.

The Rev. J. B. Barber, pastor of Leonard Street Presbyterian Church and president of the Interdenominational Ministers' Alliance expressed "keen delight over the fine prospects for a better housing program for Negroes in Chattanooga," and said he is "ready and willing in any way to help bring pressure and make better housing a reality." The Rev. Barber is a member of the Chamber of Commerce housing committee.

The Mountain City Medical Society is another organization working locally for better housing for Negroes. The president, Dr. P. A. Stephens, has been absent from the city several days attending a meeting of the National Negro Medical Association and could not be reached Friday for a statement. However, Dr. L. L. Patton, member of the society's committee on sanitary methods and ex-president of the Volunteer State Medical Society, said the matter would be taken up at their meeting Friday night at Walden Hospital, and "municipal authorities and those interested in better health and better housing for Negroes may count on our 100 per cent cooperation and effort."

Clarksville, Tenn., Leaf-Chronicle
October 14, 1937

WPA Officials Pleased With Community House

Particularly impressed with Clarksville's idea of using the abandoned post office building at Second and Commerce streets as a Community Center, six officials of the Recreational Division of WPA who viewed activities here yesterday on a tour of the state, indicated they would suggest that other cities adopt the same plan.

Since new post offices have been erected by the government in scores of Tennessee cities, the old buildings are available, it was pointed out, just as was the case here.

The party, headed by Miss La-Venia Tinnon, of Nashville, who is regional recreational director, and Muss Ruth Ray, state director; included the district supervisor from Chattanooga, a New Orleans regional director, a representative from Washington, whose names were not learned, and a Mrs. Williams, who is supervisor at Nashville.

Visiting the Community Center first, the group was shown the different daily activities carried on there. No special program was arranged. They watched groups at play using the shuffle board game and ping pong board. They liked the idea of awarding trophies in a ping pong tournament as a means of creating more interest.

For the benefit of the officials, Mrs. John Mason and Mrs. Arch Northington explained their sewing work carried on at the Community Center, and exhibited several specimens of the children's work. They also instructed a class in physical exercises, which is also a daily feature.

The visitors endorsed a plan to hold regular classes in manual training in the basement of the building, declaring the room was ideally arranged for the instructions.

After making a tour of the city parks, including Mericourt, the Public Square, Riverside and the Negro playground on Tenth Street, the officials complimented that angle of recreational activities here. They said park and playground equipment in Clarksville was about the best they had seen anywhere else in the state. While the party inspected Mericourt, a football game among smaller boys, and a ping pong contest were in progress, the latter game being staged in the shelter provided in the park for the purpose.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
October 27, 1937

CHEST GROUPS TO PLAN TODAY FOR CAMPAIGN

Division Chairmen to Meet at Hotel Patten at Noon to Outline Activities.

GUERRY LISTS LEADERS

Dates for Solicitation and Amount to Be Sought Will Be Decided at Meeting.

The "opening gun" of the Chattanooga Community Chest campaign to obtain funds for the 1938 activities of twenty-two welfare and character building agencies will be fired at noon today at a meeting of division chairmen to be held at Hotel Patten. Details of the forthcoming campaign will be agreed upon, the dates for the soliciting period selected and the amount to be sought, named. In addition to the division leaders, some of the men who will act as team captains will be present.

Dr. Alex Guerry, president of the University of Chattanooga and the general chairman of the campaign organization, has announced the following committee and division chairmen:

Committee Chairmen—D. H. Griswold, big gifts; R. E. Biggers, with R. C. Thatcher and J. C. Twinam as vice-chairmen, industrial; George H. Patten, national corporations; Mrs. L. H. Caldwell, with Mrs. James F. Finlay as vice-chairman, women's division; Walter C. Johnson, publicity; Dr. C. W. Sheerin, speakers; W. S. Keese, Jr., young men's division, and Don C. Peglar, agency directors.

Division Chairmen — Automobiles, Emmett Newton, Newton Chevrolet company; clothing, Harry Miller, The Vogue; construction, Mark K. Wilson, Mark K. Wilson company, with Earl Carter, Chattanooga Handle company, as vice-chairman; financial and insurance, R. J. Maclellan, Provident Life Insurance company; groceries, John Stagmaier, Stagmaier & Co.; perishable foods, Howard McCall, H. J. Allison & Co.; served foods and drugs, T. O. Duff, McKesson-Duff company, with George Fontaine as vice-chairman; furniture and printing, Neil J. Crowley, Intertype Composing company; educational, Creed F. Bates, Chattanooga High school; professional, Dr. J. B. Steele, Volunteer State Life Insurance company; public employes, Ernest Dennis, United States postoffice, and public service, John Lovell, Hotel Patten.

The twenty-two agencies that will participate in this year's community fund campaign, follow: Vine Street Orphans' home, Free Milk association, Little Miss Mag day nursery, Pro Re Bona day nurseries, Tennessee Children's Home society, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Young Men's Christian association, Young Women's Christian association, Frances Willard home, Old Ladies' home, Social Service bureau, Salvation Army, Travelers' Aid society, Pine Breeze sanatorium, Florence Crittenton home, North Chattanooga community center, Colored community center and the Chattanooga Health council.

Chattanooga, Tenn. News
October 26, 1937

Guerry Names Chairmen For ChestCampaign

Leaders to Meet Wednesday And Plan for Annual Drive.

Announcement of the names of committees and division chairmen for the forthcoming Community Chest drive was made Tuesday by Dr. Alex Guerry, president of the University of Chattanooga and general chairman of the campaign. These chairmen and a number of their team captains will meet in the Hotel Patten at noon Wednesday to discuss details of the campaign.

This meeting will be the first of a series of precampaign organization meetings. Dates of the drive and amount of the goal will be announced at that time. Last year's objective was $200,000.

CHAIRMEN NAMED

The committee chairmen are D. H. Griswold, big gifts; R. E. Biggers, with R. C. Thatcher and J. C. Twinum as vice-chairmen, industrial; George H. Patten, national corporations; Mrs. L. H. Caldwell, with Mrs. James F. Finley as vice-chairman, women's division; Walter C. Johnson, publicity; Dr. C. W. Sheerin, speakers; W. S. Keese, Jr., young men's division, and Don C. Peglar, agency directors.

The division leaders named by Dr. Guerry are:

Automobile, Emmett Newton, Newton Chevrolet; clothing, Harry Miller, the Vogue; construction, Mark K. Wilson, Mark K. Wilson Company, with Earl Carter, Chattanooga Handle Company, as vice-chairman; finance and insurance, R. J. Maclellan, Provident Life Insurance Company; groceries, John Stagmaier, Stagmaier & Co.; perishable foods, Howard McCall, H. J. Allison & Co.; served foods and drugs, T. O. Duff, McKesson-Duff Company; furniture and printing, Neil J. Crowley, Intertype Composing Company; educational, Creed F. Bates, Chattanooga High School; professional, Dr. J. B. Steele, Volunteer State Life Insurance Company; public employes, Ernest Dennis, United States postoffice, and public service, John Lovell, Hotel Patten.

The Community Chest drive has been made here each Fall for the past fifteen years. Collections from this year's campaign will go to the support of the chest's twenty-two agencies, which include the Vine Street Orphans' Home, Free Milk Association, Children's Refuge Association, Colored Orphans' Home Humane Educational Association Little Miss Mag Day Nursery, Pro Re Bona Day Nurseries, Tennessee Children's Home Society, Boy and Girl Scouts, Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations, Frances Willard Home, Old Ladies' Home, Social Service Bureau, Salvation Army, Travelers' Aid Society, Pine Breeze Sanatorium, Florence Crittenton Home, North Chattanooga and Colored Community Centers and the Chattanooga Health Council.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
October 26, 1937

PUPILS WILL BUILD WAGONS FOR CLUB

Colored Boys to Construct 500 Christmas Toys.

Sunday Is Designated as Day for Church Collection of Gifts for Poor.

Toy wagons, 500 of them, will be built by colored boys of the East Fifth Street school for distribution by the Santa Claus club to needy children this Christmas, it was announced yesterday at a meeting of directors of the club at Hotel Patten.

The boys, under the direction of J. L. Jenkins, Boy Scout leader, will make the wagons of materials to be furnished by the club, consisting of wood contributed by Don Overmyer, of the Chattanooga Box Factory, and Jay Willingham. Other material will be purchased by the club.

Commissioner Eugene J. Bryan reported a total of 1,400 toys had been contributed to the fire halls and had been put into first-class condition by the firemen.

Sunday has been designated Toy day in the churches and large quantities of toys are expected to be contributed by church members to be collected next day by the members of the Debutante club, led by Miss Frances Little, and taken to the fire halls to be repaired. The toys will be kept in the fire halls this year until the finish of the Community Chest drive, since the auditorium basement will be used during the campaign. Heretofore the toys have been displayed in the auditorium basement.

Mrs. Don Peglar reported yesterday that arrangements had been completed to have children in all the schools lend their aid Nov. 4 and 5 and that the teachers had been active in urging their pupils to help the cause.

The Santa Claus club is an organization the purpose of which is to see that no child, no matter how poor, is without toys at Christmas time. Last year it distributed toys to 521 children.

Nashville, Tenn. Banner
October 13, 1937

Negroes Launch Drive To Push Chest Campaign

Negro workers in the Community Chest campaign launched their drive Tuesday night at an opening meeting at Morris Memorial Cafeteria, attended by over 100 leading Negroes of the city.

Addresses setting forth the campaign's objective and the need for funds were made by Lee J. Loventhal, S. L. Smith of the Julius Rosenwald Fund, the Rev. W. J. Faulkner of Fisk University and Dr. J. H. Hale of Meharry Medical College.

Participating in this year's Chest campaign as a Negro cooperative group rather than a separate Negro division, no quota has been assigned the Negro workers. They will assist as an active part of the teams of the business division, with one Negro worker assigned to each team to solicit Negro-owned and operated concerns. These workers are:

Garages, Tom Bracey; clothing, James W. Eakins; laundries, Frank White; contractors, R. S. Scales; banks, J. C. Napier; finance companies, George Anderson; life insurance, E. B. Edwards; groceries, Flem B. Otey; restaurants, Anna M. Coleman; drugs, Dr. E. L. Price; advtrtising, M. W. Day; charity, Mrs. N. I. Work; religious, Dr. L. C. Cleaves; clubs, Mrs. Frankie Pierce; colleges, D. W. Crutcher; attorneys, W. S. Walker; physicians, Dr. H. H. Walker; hospitals and nurses, Miss H. M. Lyttle dentists, Dr. I. L. Moore; funeral directors, J. T. Patton; hotels, A. C. Ferguson; amusements, T. S. Walker; barber shops, H. T. Matthews; beauty shops, Rachel L. Taylor.

Report meetings for the Negro Cooperative Group will be held Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights of next week at the Morris Memorial Cafeteria.

Social Conditions, Improvement of - 1937

Tennessee

Memphis, Tenn., Com'rcial Appeal
January 20, 1937

ELECTION IS PLANNED

Junior Red Cross For Negro Schools To Name Officers

The Junior Red Cross Council for Memphis negro schools will conduct an election and installation of officers at 3:45 o'clock this afternoon at Porter School.

Following the installation of officers a program of talks and music will be held. Mrs. E. W. Hale, city Junior Red Cross service chairman; Miss Mary P. Poston, Memphis Red Cross executive chairman, and Ernest C. Ball, superintendent of city schools, will be honored guests.

Nashville, Tenn. Banner
January 30, 1937

Dickson—Two hundred and fifty additional Negro refugees from the Paducah flood area were brought here Friday night. About half of the number were taken to the Montgomery Bell Park for housing in the CCC barracks, joining another contingent brought here Wednesday night. This site is being used for the men, while the women and children are quartered in the Negro Masonic Hall and church buildings of the Negro people here. A mess hall has been set up in a vacant building easily accessible to the area where they are stationed and clothing and food is being furnished through the local chapter of the American Red Cross. The Red Cross and relief organizations prepared to take care of 300 or more white refugees, but the need for the latter class of stricken flood victims is not now so acute. However, a scattered few of the white refugees from Paducah are here, being in homes of relatives and close friends throughout the country. The Negro flood victims now domiciled here number 350.

Nashville Tenn. Banner
March 7, 1937

Church in Drive To Establish Negro Community House

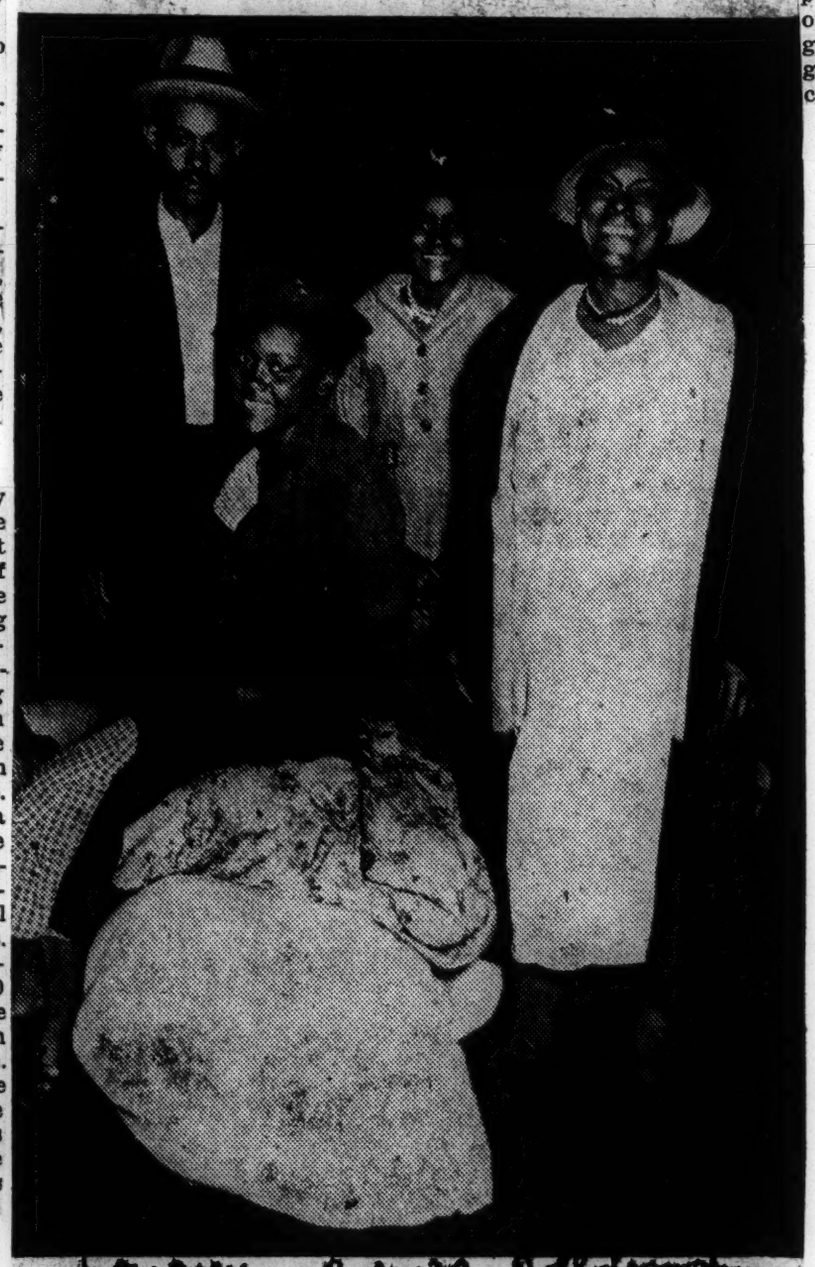
Pointing out that there have been six Negro murders in Nashville in the past six days, and that a survey reveals local crime to be heaviest in depreciated areas where there are no community centers, the Rev. Arthur D. Williams last night announced a campaign by the John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church to establish a public building for Negroes in South Nashville.

"Charts drawn up in the office of the city engineer, Felix Beazley, show that crimes ranging from burglary to murder occur most frequently in Negro sections where there are no parks, playgrounds, libraries, or public places for Negroes to gather," he said.

"The congregation of my church, at Eleventh and Edgehill Aven feels that a community center with a day nursery, opportunity and adult education classes, nondenominational in character, would do much to reduce crime in the South Nashville Negro area," he explained.

A more wholesome use of leisure and recreational time, for which the proposed center would provide an opportunity, would be afforded Negroes who at present are forced to gather in environments conducive to crime, the Negro pastor stated.

REFUGEES THANKFUL FOR AID



The above flood refugees are grateful to Memphis for having sent them on to Chattanooga during the crest of the flood which drove them from their home in Kiser, Ark. They have been well fed and clothed. They passed through Memphis Saturday. The Chatttanooga News photographer snapped their pictures before they entrained from that city and passed them on to The Courier correspondent, Jasper T. Duncan. In the photo are Miss Lola Stevens (seated) and Willie, Carrie, and their mother, Mrs. Amy Stevens, standing.

Pulaski, Tenn., Citizen
April 21, 1937

Negro Better Homes

With twenty-two negro community Better Homes Chairmen appointed over the county over 500 have enrolled in the Better Homes Campaign.

To stimulate more interest in the Campaign and especially in community projects. The County Council of Home Demonstration Clubs has made a 50 lb mattress as a county project. Tickets are being sold on this mattress at 10 cents each in all the clubs. The proceeds will go towards improving community projects such as improving church grounds, school grounds, recreational centers, club rooms and improving unsightly scenes along the highways. This mattress is on exhibit at the Variety Store, Frances Building, North End. Help us to improve the communities.

This Council of Home Demonstration Clubs represent 15 clubs in the county with the following officers: President, Mrs. Bertha Jordan; Vice President, Miss Mattie L. Coble; Secretary-Reporter, Mrs. Mattie Gilbert and Treasurer, Mrs. Maggie Martin.

We are asking each chairman to report all outstanding projects in each community and to make pictures "Before" and "After" the improvements made.

Communities and Chairmen in which definite improvement projects are planned are: Agnew, Mrs. Mattie P. Crittdom, Aymett Town, Mrs. Lorine Brown, Anthony Hill, Mrs. Lelia Clack, Ardmore, Miss Ella Holt, Aspen Hill, Mrs. Hattie Harwell, Bethel, Mrs. Lochi Inman, Bodenham, Mrs. Mary L. Tidwell, Cedar Grove, Mrs. Lucile Bogus, Center Point, Mrs. Lizzie Harney, Elkton, Mrs. Parlee Scruggs, Haywood, Mrs. Hattie Tears, Lynnville, Dr. A. B. Marsh, Pisgah, Miss Naomi Ball, Pleasant Hill, Mrs. Quantilla Gilbert, Poplar Hill, Mrs. Mattie Gilbert, Powell Chapel, Mrs. Berena Braden, Prospect, Mrs. Maggie L. Martin, Pulaski, Mrs. Mary L. Burch, Riversburg, Miss Mary Alice Myers, Round Hill, Mrs. Ethel Braden, Tarpley, Mrs. Georgia Will Holt and Wales, Mrs. Fannie Gracey.

On Saturday, May 1, a county-wide meeting will be held in the Court House climaxing the Better Homes Campaign. Each Chairman is requested to give a summary of the improvement done in her community.

Cooperating with this campaign are all the ministers who will preach a "Better Homes Serman" on April 25th; also all the merchants who will advertise the Better Homes Week in their windows.

The negro Home Demonstration Agent is urging that each individual will take part in the campaign and make some definite improvement, general cleaning, planting flowers, papering, white washing, building walks, underpining or any project that can be taken to make us have a bigger and better report for this year.

The County Chairman, Mrs. Mattie Bridgeforth requests that all reports be turned in on time. She also plans a "Better Homes Tour" to visit the improvements made in the county A definite schedule of this tour wil be announced later.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
May 14, 1937

DR. JOHNSON'S TALKS.

The series of four addresses being made in Chattanooga by Dr. Charles Spurgeon Johnson, of Fisk University, do more than bring the housing problem anew to the attention of our people. The information which he is making known provides added urgences to do something about the problems and suggests that at the least something can be done about one or more phases of what is a monstrously sorry condition.

Among these phases are two fundamental needs, water and light. Dr. Johnson refers to a survey among

386 sample Negro families and says only 9 per cent. had hot and cold running water inside the house, 40 per cent. had only outside water supply, 79 per cent. of the houses were without bathrooms, and 27 per cent. of the families—a much smaller percentage, he said, than in many other cities—used electricity.

It may not be possible all at once to provide so much as the minimum standard of housing in Chattanooga for low-income groups. There is some question whether, if model tenements were built to a moderately good standard, the lowest-income families could afford to rent them. But there can be little doubt that some of the most acute phases of the problem can be attacked successfully, though the attack may have to be limited to a comparatively small area.

It may be supposed that the most acute phase will be almost universally admitted to be sanitation. Water and sewage facilities are first essentials to sanitation. If it should prove too much to attempt to provide minimum plumbing equipment for all the residences within one slum area, it might be possible to furnish one water spigot inside each house. There can be found a starting point small enough to be practicable, and a start on the smallest scale would be better than no start at all. Besides effecting the immediate practical improvement within its scope, it would go far outside its geographical field in giving a demonstration and a provocation for similar work in other slum areas in the city.

Nashville, Tenn. Banner
August 21, 1937

PICKING LOW-RENTAL TENANTS

Selecting occupants for low-rental housing projects is one of the matters which will confront the housing authorities in all communities where PWA efforts have been directed toward slum clearance enterprises.

The New York City Housing Authority has recently been engaged in choosing occupants for a low-cost apartment house project in Harlem, a section of the metropolis now extensively occupied by Negro residents.

The particular project there, costing $4,219,000, was constructed to house 572 families, with an income slightly exceeding $1,300 a year, representing generally unskilled or only partially skilled labor.

There were 11,500 applications for the 572 apartments available and in the selections of tenants the matter of minimum family budgets as well as income received careful attention. Social agencies assisted in supplying information regarding families needs other than low-cost rent.

In giving consideration to the applications of prospective tenants the rule was followed, according to the New York Sun, of requiring that the family income equal five times the rent of a place of abode plus the cost of utilities. If the rent promised to be too large a proportion of the family income to permit the family to have adequate food, clothing and other necessities, the application was rejected.

The 572 families selected for the occupation of the structure, included 1,909 persons, according to the Sun, of whom 1,284 were adults and 625 are children under 18 years of age. The rentals ranged from $4.45 a week for two room apartments to $7.25 a week for five-room apartments.

Texas.

Social Conditions, Improvement of - 1937

NEGROES AND THE COMMUNITY CHEST—

The Community Chest Fund is a sum of money accumulated by the unselfish efforts of philanthropists in a city for the purpose of continuing and expanding the facilities institutions to take care of such other needs as are not being of that particular community, but which are not supported by the city government or is only partially supported by other organizations; and also to stimulate and begin new institutios to take care of such other needs as are not being administered by any existing institutions. So far as the fund is concerned it might just as well have been named "City Charity Fund" or anything else. But perhaps some of the originators of the idea, remembering that a chest fund usually means funds set aside and accumulated for particular uses, decided to name this fund the Community Chest Fund because it is accumulated and set aside and dedicated to particular purposes that are not able to be classed as ordinary.

For a while Negroes in Houston were permitted to work in the drives which were put on to raise the Community Chest Fund. Then, for some reason or other, the people who organized the drives decided to eliminate Negroes as workers. This year under a new administration Negroes are invited, in a manner that precludes doubt of the sincerity of the invitation, to take part in the Community Chest Fund drive. An able leader of the drive has been chosen in the person of Dean R. O'Hara Lanier. The dean has associated with him outstanding leaders, two ministers and a business man in the persons of Rev. J. S. Scott, Rev. L. H. Simpson and L. H. Spivey. Also, the Bronze Mayor, W. L. Davis, has been chosen to head the Speakers' Bureau. Frank Lane, noted for civic work, has been selected to head the prospects list. Finally the division leaders have been chosen and while this is being written are now selecting their captains to carry on the actual work in the field.

Now that Negroes are committed to work actively in the chest drive again, it may not be out of place to examine the chest fund and its uses and to look again at the procedure and technique of conducting the drive. Our Y. W. C. A., Y. M. C. A., Bethlehem Settlement, Negro Hospital, the Red Cross, Tubercular Clinic, Visiting Nurses' Association, and Travelers' Aid Service are direct recipients of the funds of the Community Chest each year. Without this aid from the Community Chest the work from our social and civic institutions would undoubtedly be crippled. So the fund goes for good causes.

As to the method of raising the funds, it is done by organizing various workers of the city who solicit funds from industries, wealthy donors and by house to house canvass of smaller donors. So far there has been little question as to the efficacy of this practice or the correctness of it. But there has been some criticism concerning the distribution of the solicitation among the various workers. There are those among the Negro workers who believe that Negroes should be given the task of soliciting funds at all industries where Negroes are employed. These contend that if this is not done Negroes are getting the little end of the soliciting or are being made the goat.

There is another branch of thought which believes that it does not matter particularly how the funds are raised as long as they are raised, and when raised devoted to the uses of the whole community. This group thinks that Negroes should do whatever is left for them to do, little or big, and that when the funds are raised they should be distributed as they have been in the past to all of the institutions that need them, regardless of race or color.

We are inclined to the second school of thought. We believe that the best method of procedure would be to list all of the possible places to be canvassed; to frankly discuss what is the best way to get the most from each; and to assign for the job those solicitors who can best get the most from the particular source. In this connection we have grave doubts as to whether or not if Negroes were sent into the larger industries to solicit funds they would get any more, or indeed get as much, as is being gotten now.

All of this to say that we believe it is a very short-sighted view of the question to predicate our interest in the Community Chest upon the basis of the industrial solicitation that is open to Negroes. We believe that the basis of our interest in the Community Chest should be upon the amount of fairness and of just consideration given to our abilities and the jobs that are to be done.

Also, we believe that if the leaders of the Community Chest at the central division are sincere, as they have given every evidence of being, there will be no difficulty in having whatever amount is contributed through large industries allotted to the Negroes as contributions from Negroes. Upon this we should insist and when we get this to our credit as our share of the contribution to the chest, we have gotten the substance of what we are entitled to.

Therefore, it is a waste of time and merely confuses the issue to argue about the industrial solicitations that have already been made before the Negro campaign gets under way. The Community Chest is a city-wide effort, the fruits of which are used for all of the citizens, white and black, and Negroes should make it a point of honor to share in that effort. If there be any slackness or any littleness about it, it should be left for the people at the central division to reflect it, and not for Negroes to belittle themselves by taking little, narrow positions.

In the absence of any affront or a personal slight to Negroes, every Negro should contribute to the Community Chest whether he works in it or whether he doesn't. In the absence of any injustice to the workers on the groups, every man able to work in the chest drive should work in it and work wherever his abilities best fit him to work.

COMMUNITY HOUSE COSTING SUM OF $10,000 NOW BEING ERECTED

past year the Voters League has been very active in a program seeking park improvements and other benefits for the Negro community. Plans are now underway for a general park improvement program for Negroes throughout the city. Other sections may expect developments soon.

DALLAS, Tex.—The Park Board unit over before built for Negroes of the city of Dallas announced anywhere in the South. The in- this week its plan to construct terior will provide a community as- $10,000 community house and resemble hall with a stage and a seat- creation center for the use and ing capacity of 350 persons. Special enjoyment of Dallas Negroes. The provisions will be made for com- building will be located along the munity groups and assembly rooms. northshore of Lake Cahoo in east The building will also provide for Dallas, adjacent to Julia Frazier Caretakers quarters and locker School. Cahoo Park, in rooms for supervisors. The frame cluding the lake, consists of ap- house on the lake has already proximately 22 acres and when de- demolished and workmen are veloped will be the garden spot of now engaged in the construction Negro life and activity in Dallas. of the new center.

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Social Conditions, Improvement of - 1937 Texas.

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COMMUNITY HOUSE COSTING SUM OF $10,000 NOW BEING ERECTED

DALLAS, Tex.—The Park Board of the City of Dallas announced this week its plan to construct $10,000 community house and recreation center for the use and enjoyment of Dallas Negroes. The building will be located along the northshore of Lake Wahoo in east Dallas, adjacent the Julia Frazier School, Wahoo Park, including the lake, consists of approximately 22 acres, and when developed will be the garden spot of Negro life and activity in Dallas.

The building will be constructed from an oriental architectural plan of tile, stone and concrete and promises to be the most complete unit ever before built for Negroes anywhere in the South. The interior will provide a community assembly hall with a stage and a seating capacity of 350 persons. Special provisions will be made for community groups and assembly rooms. The building will also provide for caretakers quarters and locker rooms for supervisors. The frame house on the lake has already been demolished and workmen are now engaged in the construction of the new center.

This building is the culmination of the three years effort of the Negro Chamber of Commerce and the Progressive Voters League. For the

Social Conditions, Improvement of-1937

Virginia. 6

Architects Of Race Aid PWA Plan Housing

Dr. Robert C. Weaver Gives Interesting Facts, Figures

Journal and Guide Bureau

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. —"Of 49 housing projects financed by the Federal Government at an approximate cost of $150,000,000, seventeen of them are assigned to colored citizens representing an outlay of some $40,000,000, while eight are serving both white and colored people."

This information was given by Dr. Robert C. Weaver, adviser on Negro affairs in the Department of Interior, Washington, D. C., in an address on "Better Homes" opening the observance of "Better Homes Week" Sunday afternoon at the Recreation Center.

Other interesting facts brought out by Dr. Weaver were: "Members of the race are playing a large part in planning the types of homes needed by their group. Of seven architects employed on the Harlem project, one is colored; of three on the Washington project, two are colored, one being the principal architect; connected with the same project is a colored associate manager, and a colored employee in the Inspection Division; one colored architect consultant is employed on the project in Nashville, Tenn.

"Of 35 enrollees in the School of Housing Administration under auspices of the Public Works Administration and the National Association of Housing Officials, 13 were colored, and one a member of the faculty. All 13 enrollees are now employed as project managers."

The campaign is being sponsored by a city-wide committee of which Prof. T. C. Erwin, school principal, is chairman.

Dr. Weaver pointed out that the employment of Negro labor on these projects is secured by a special contract clause; that out of a skilled payroll of $4,000,000 Negroes received about one-tenth or $400,000; and out of a payroll of some $6,000,000 for other types of labor on the projects, Negroes received about $1,500,000.

"The big problem in educating Negroes to the social values of better housing," he said, "is to make them articulate as to what bad housing is doing to Negro family life." He emphasized that the problem of housing is one primarily of income.

Dr. Weaver explained what the government is doing objectively for housing throughout the nation made specific references to projects in cities like Miami, New York, Indianapolis, Washington and Nashville where Negroes are being benefitted.

He urged the citizens of Newport News and the Peninsula to take full advantages of the Aberdeen Homesteads. A feature of the program was display of exhibits of slum areas in certain cities and models of various types of homes being built by the government to eliminate these slum conditions.

Prof. T. C. Erwin, presided, and outlined the purpose and objective of "Better Homes Week." Other speakers were Prof. L. F. Palmer, Mr. W. R. Walker, Aberdeen Community Manager, and J. Rupert Picott.

Prominent Speakers Heard At Church Social Work Institute

The Richmond Institute of Church Social Work, sponsored by Methodist Social Agencies of Richmond, Virginia was held here in Broad Street Methodist Church Monday and Tuesday May 10-11.

On Monday the sessions began at 2.30 p. m. Group No. 1, the theme for discussion being "The Church and Social Work," was presided over by the Rev. B. M. Persinger, pastor Broad Street Church and Missionary Secretary, Richmond District. In this group "The Historical Relationship of Church and Social Work," was discussed by the Rev. J. T. Mastin, formerly Commissioner of Public Welfare for Virginia; "The Relationship of the Church to Social Work," by Arthur A. Guild, Director Richmond Community Fund; and "The Relationship of Social Work to the Church," by the Rev. Garland Evans Hopkins, Minister-Director, Trinity Institutional Church.

Group 2, the theme being "The Church and Labor," with the Rev. Henry Lee Robinson serving as chairman, was addressed by the Rev. E. A. DeBordenave, Assistant Minister St. Pauls, who spoke on "The Church Looks at Labor; H. M. Monahan, organizer, American Federation of Labor, who spoke on "Labor Looks at the Church; and Major Campbell Johnson, Executive Secretary, Colored YMCA, Washington, D. C., who spoke on "Labor and the Negro."

Group 3, the theme being "Next Steps in Interracial Cooperation," with Dr. Early Lee Fox, Executive Secretary, Cooperative Education Association, serving as chairman, was addressed by the Rev. C. E. Queen, pastor Leigh Street M. E. Church on "The White Facing Interracial Cooperation: His part," and an address by L. R. Reynolds, Executive Secretary, Virginia Interracial Commission from the same subject.

Group 4, the theme "Organization of the Protestant Church for Social Service, with the Rev. G. I. McAllen, chairman, was addressed by Major Herbert W. Young, Division Secretary for the Salvation Army for Virginia, on "The Historical Position of the Protestant Position of the Protestant Church in Social Service; "Social Service Organization Among the Jews," by Rabbi Sidney Lefkowitz, Beth Ahabah Synagogue; and "Social Service Among Catholics," by the Rev. Thomas E. Mitchell, Director, Bureau of Catholic Charities.

At 6 p. m. a supper for social workers, church social workers and agency board members was served in Social Hall, with the Rev. J. T. Mastin, father of social work in Virginia, as the guest of honor and the Rev. Henry Lee Robinson presiding.

At 8 p .m. an addres son "The Modern Conception of Social Security" was delivered by Hon, Frank Bane, Executive Director of the Virginia Social Security Commission.

Tuesday's Sessions

Tuesday morning featured meetings of special groups embracing a meeting of the Findings committees of the study groups, a meeting of the Committee on Interrelationship of Methodist Agencies for Social Work, the Committee on Protestant Hospital Work, and an address by Mrs. Elizabeth Murray, Hospital Chaplain, Washington, D. C.

Afternoon and Evening Sessions

In Group 1, with the theme "The Church and Social Work, "Trends in the Fields of Social and Welfare Work" was the subject of an address by Arthur W. James, Commissioner of Welfare for Virginia; "Church and Social Work" was the subject of an address which followed by Dr. W. L. Darby, Executive Secretary, Washington Federation of Churches.

In Group 2, with "The Church and Labor" as the theme, John Hopkins Hall, Virginia Commissioner of Labor, delivered an address from the subject, "Labor and the Church," and Mrs. George W. Guy, Executive Secretary Citizens Service Exchange, delivered an address from the subject, "The Church and the Cooperative Movement."

In Group 3, with "Next Steps in Interracial Cooperation" as the theme, an address on "The Negro Facing Interracial Cooperation: His Part," was delivered by Dr. Joseph T. Hill, pastor Second Baptist Church; and another on the same subject was delivered by M. A. Norrell, Editor of the Richmond PLANET. "Next Steps" was the subject of a discussion which followed by Attorney T. C. Walker, Consultant on Negro Affairs of the WPA.

In Group 4, with "Organization of the Protestant Church for Social Service" as the theme, an address on "Problems in Virginia Social Welfare," was delivered by Hon. James W. Phillips, Assistant Commissioner State Department of Public Welfare; and another on "Resources Available for Protestant Organization" by the Rev. W. L. Darby, Executive Secretary Washington Federation of Churches.

Institute Banquet at 6

The institute banquet was held at 6 p. m., with the Rev. S. C. Hatcher presiding and featuring an address by the Rev. Worth M. Tippy, of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, on "The Church Facing the Problem of Poverty."

At 8 p. m. a public session was held featuring an address by Hon. Jacob Baker, Assistant Administrator, WPA, on "The Cooperative Enterprise and Problems of Today."

Excerpts From Tuesday's Speeches

Speaking from the topic "Living Truths and Dead Traditions," M. A. Norrell, Editor of the Richmond PLANET, said, in part: "We have industriously ransacked the ruins of dead tradition and sought to build mutual understandings and well being thereon in studied defiance of the eternal truth that the living cannot be found among the dead. * * *

"The black laws which segregate, jim-crow and stigmatize Negro Americans, the double standards, horizontal or perpendicular lines designed to isolate Negroes, if you prefer to call them, which keep them in pitiless poverty through starvation wages and a dearth of work opportunities, the differentials solely because of color in pay for persons performing the same tasks, the rent exploitation which forces Negroes to dwell in dilapidated, unsightly and disease-breeding houses, the sick-eyed custom which prescribes for Negroes inferior health safeguards, educational and recreational facilities, police government and injustice and partiality of the courts which fill the jails and penitentiaries with Negroes and cause them to supply the electric chair with the major part of its victims, the ban which bars them from employment under the government their taxes help to support; all of these and more breed hatreds and barriers to interracial cooperation, create distrust, bitterness and unfriendliness and make efforts at interracial cooperation not only futile but foolish."

In closing his address, which was replete with sound food for thought, he said: "As a child I pumped the organ in this very church, then pastored by Dr. Young. I often heard him preach. I am persuaded that were he present here today he would join me in saying to this study group, 'Why Seek Ye the Living Among the Dead?' Interracial cooperation will be found through the acceptance of living truths and not through servile adherences to dead tradition. I perceive as Negroes face interracial cooperation, his part is to advise where the pitfall to its attainment lie and in honest frankness tell where it can be found and endur-

ingly established. Which road shall we choose following these meetings? The one marked 'Dead Traditions' or the one marked 'Living Truths?' he queried, as he brought his thought-provoking address to a close.

Hill Dynamic and Impressive

During the course of his dynamic and impressive address, Dr. Hill said in part: "If one will but read the Negro newspapers of today, study contemporary literature, listen to discussions in Negro social circles and take note of the sayings of lecturers, orators, and leaders of the race in general, it will be very apparent that the Negro is not at all satisfied with his present status in the world. From all avenues and from practically all parts of the world where Negroes live in large numbers we get bitter and unending complaints. So far as the Negro is concerned, this truly is the age of discontent. * * *

"The late Arthur Brisbane made a factual statement worth considering," said Dr. Hill, quoting Brisbane, he said: "The Chinese are as intelligent as the Japanese, and nearly ten times as numerous with wealth a hundred times greater than Japan; yet, there is antipathy—their psychology is different. (unquote)"

"Are the Negroes relying upon the increase of numbers? The Chinese are ten times as numerous as the Japanese.

"Are the Negroes depending upon the acquisition of wealth? The Chinese are a hundred times as wealthy as the Japanese. Negroes are losing a great deal when they fail to develop the social mind and the code of social ethics absolutely needed to deal properly with the collective tasks of mankind.

Whether it is right or wrong, I want my people to know the equality is going to be denied mentally, if not openly, until equality is demonstrated by present day achievements, and the standard will not be that of individual excellence. The capacity of the masses for social action will be the determining factor.

"Our hope lies not in a trained mind altogether, but in a changed mind. Our very life concepts must be changed if we are to fit snugly into this social picture," Dr. Hill declared.

T. C. Walker Talks

Mr. T. C. Walker, of Gloucester, told the study group that the next step for the interracial commission was for all the leaders among both the whites and blacks to put God into their lives. "The Christian religion and the gospel is the panacea for all of man's ills," he declared.

Newport News, Va. Press
July 1, 1937

WEYMOUTH SPEAKS AT NEGRO CENTER

Judge Delivers Principal Address at Opening Exercises Of Community Project

Judge John Weymouth of the eleventh judicial circuit was the principal speaker yesterday afternoon at exercicses formally opening the Negro community center on King street. This center of recreation, recently reopened with an enlarged program, is a WPA project sponsored by the county school board and is supported in part by private donations. Mrs. Martha S. Stroud, is local supervisior.

After a program of games for the visitors of all ages played on the lawn of the center, the adults gathered in the assembly room for the opening program which was directed by T. C. Walker, Negro, advisor and consultant on Negro affairs for Virginia. The program was introduced with several selections rendered by Hampton institute band led by W. O. Tessman.

After the music, Judge Weymouth was introduced to the audience of approximately 200 by Dr. J. W. Patterson, local Negro minister. He expressed his interest in the work being projected at the center and stated that he had always had a keen interest in the Negro race. "The best way to bring up a child in the way he should go is to go there yourself," he said. He also said "If you haven't something to occupy your mind you will get into trouble whether you are eight or 80."

After the address by Judge Weymouth several State workers were introduced to the audience and they made brief talks. These workers included: Miss Lola Clyde Woody, State director of WPA recreation; W. O. McDaniel, State recreation consultant; Miss Gertrude Beecham, district advisor of recreation, and the leader, T. C. Walker, Negro.

The executive board of the community center is planning a drive among the citizens of the town and county, both white and Negro, to raise money to improve the facilities, and to construct new buildings, it was announced by the supervisor.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
July 28, 1937

Negro Settlement Houses W

Methodist Body To Give Funds For Project

After more than a year of effort by Methodist women of Richmond, this city is to have a "Bethlehem Center," one of a nation-wide system of settlement houses for Negroes. Assured that the board of the Women's Missionary Council at Nashville, Tenn., will provide necessary funds, the Methodist Women's City Mission Board, Inc., yesterday signed a lease on a building at 501 Orleans Street to house the center.

Plans for the settlement house were announced by Mrs. G. B. Ingraham, president of the board, and Mrs. James A. Richardson, chairman of the Bethlehem Center Committee, following a visit to Richmond by Mrs. J. W. Downs of Nashville, secretary of home work for the Women's Missionary Council of the Methodist Church.

Accompanied by Mrs. Lee Britt of Suffolk, president of the Virginia Conference Woman's Missionary Society, Mrs. Downs visited all social agencies and projects sponsored by Richmond Methodists. Included among these are the Craig House, where the Trinity Institutional Board operates a community center for white people; the five daily vacation Bible schools for Negroes; Camp Mastin, summer camp in New Kent County for Richmond boys and girls; Wilson Inn, cooperative boarding home for girls; and the present Negro center on East Main Street.

After surveying the needs of the Negro population in Richmond, Mrs. Downs recommended the establishment of the Bethlehem Center in Fulton. Although the center will be in Fulton, extension work will be carried on in all sections of the city, members of the board said yesterday.

Bethlehem Center or Bethlehem House is the name given to each settlement house for Negroes operated under the home mission division of the Woman's Missionary Council at Nashville. The six centers now maintained are located in Nashville, Tenn., August, Ga., Winston-Salem, N. C., Spartanburg, S. C., and Memphis, Tenn. Each of these houses operates under a co-operative plan with the local group furnishing the building, equipment and volunteers workers and the Nashville headquarters providing the deaconesses and other trained workers.

According to Mrs. Ingraham, who recently spent a week studying the center in Augusta, the programs of the various Bethlehem Houses are arranged to meet the needs of the communities they serve. Most centers offer recreational facilities; courses in sewing, handcraft, cooking and hygiene, religious education an kindergartens. They also sponsor various clubs and associations to bring about better relations between the white and Negro residents, Mrs. Ingraham said.

The Methodist Women's City Mission Board is composed of two representatives from each of the 24 woman's auxiliaries in Richmond which hold membership in the Virginia Conference Woman's Missionary Society.

ANNOUNCE PLANS FOR BETHLEHEM CENTER—Mrs. James A. Richardson (left), chairman of the Bethlehem Center Committee of the Methodist Women's Mission Board, and Mrs. G. B. Ingraham, president of the board, who yesterday announced plans for a Bethlehem Center in Richmond. The center, to be located at 501 Orleans Street, will be a recreational and educational settlement house for Negroes and will be sponsored by the board. —Mrs. Richardson's photo by Foster; Mrs. Ingraham's by Dementi.

Social Conditions, Improvement of - 1937 Virginia

Erwin, Tenn., Record
January 1, 1937

Newport News Homesteads, four miles from the heart of Newport News, Va., is the only suburban housing propect for Negroes in the United States. With construc-tion already well advanced, it will pre-vide comfortable brick-veneer homes, with bathrooms, modern kitchen conveniences, and combina-tion workshop-laundry- garages, for 200 low income Negro famliies when completel. A Resettlement Administration project, it has been developed entirely by Negro tech-nicians and workers.

Recreational Facilities Here Seem Nearer

Committee and City Manager Hold Conference

2-27-37

Prospects for providing recreational and athletic facilities for the colored group in Norfolk are considerably better, following a conference Friday afternoon between City Manager Thompson and the Citizens Committee which has been cooperating for several months with municipal authorities with the purpose of securing such facilities.

Suggestions, accompanied by sketches, had previously been presented to city authorities for consideration. City Manager Thompson at the conference Friday said that he was not in favor of the development of facilities at Barraud Park, because of its isolation and restricted area, and the condition of the approaches to it.

The committee, fully aware of the unsightliness and general undesirability of the Barraud Park site, had based its suggestions on that site only because it was at the time the only known city property large enough and available.

ALTERNATIVE PLAN

The city manager laid before the committee his alternative plan, which did not, however, include a gymnasium so constructed as to be made available to the whole population as well as to young people.

After more than two hours of discussion, during which the committee urged the gymnasium plan as more immediately necessary, the city manager expressed deep interest and said he felt there was merit in the counter proposal of the committee, which was the immediate erection of a combination gymnasium and community center adjacent to the high school.

On Monday the special committee which met with the city manager reported to the general committee and by a unanimous vote the general committee agreed to the revised program for developing the needed facilities. This action was made known in writing to the city manager Tuesday morning.

THOSE AT CONFERENCE

The special committee members who met with the city manager Friday were P. Bernard Young, Jr., chairman; Dr. E. D. Burke, the Rev. B. B. Evans, and Winston Douglas P. B. Young, Sr., head of the general committee and an ex-officio member of the special committee was present and acted as spokesman. Dr. S. F. Coppage, the other member of the special committee was unavoidably absent from the conference.

The question of sites for the gymnasium was thoroughly discussed and several tentative locations listed. The question of a suitable place at which to stage football and other outdoor games likewise was gone into, and various plans for providing for them canvassed.

At the close of the conference the question of the City Beach was raised. The city manager informed the committee that repairs to the road and beach would be made soon and that the city planned to have it open for the coming season under new management. The former operators some months ago relinquished their lease.

In its communication to the city manager Tuesday morning the committee also urged improvement of Barraud Park as a city park and the approaches so as to make it more available and less unsightly.

Newport News, Va. Press
February 14, 1937

NEGRO RECREATION CENTER DEDICATION SCHEDULED TODAY

Leaders of Both Races To Speak; Huntington Chorus To Sing; Inspection Of Building to Follow

Dedication of the new shipyard recreational building for Negroes, located on Thirty-fifth street adjacent to the new Huntington high school, will take place at 3 this afternoon. The hour previously had been announced as 2 p. m.

Leaders of both white and Negro races are included on the speaking program. The program includes a group of Negro spirituals sung by the Huntington high school chorus. Inspection of the building will follow the dedicatory program.

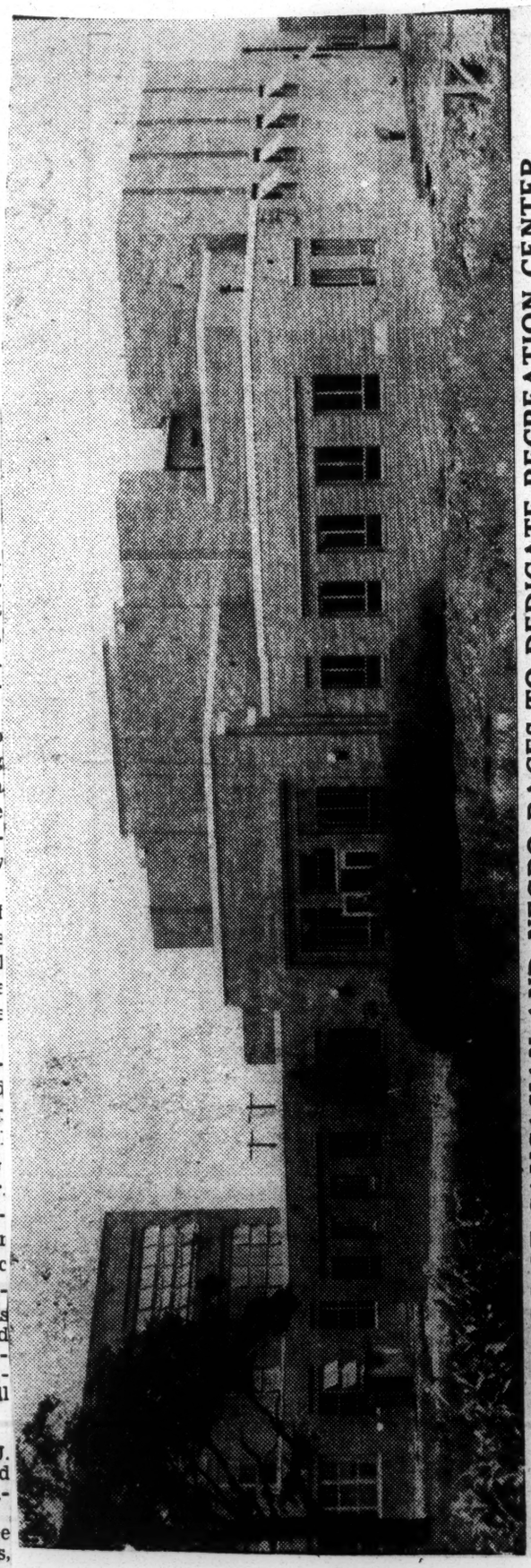
G. Wesley Raney Jr., in charge of the building, will preside at today's exercises. The principal speaker will be Blair Blanton, chairman of the employes' representatives group at the shipyard.

Rev. J. Metz Rollins, pastor of Carver Memorial Presbyterian church and Negro member of the board which administers the recreation center, will offer the invocation. Mayor B. G James will speak, followed by Mr. Blanton. Addresses also are scheduled by Charles E. Hoster, supervisor of physical education in the public schools; and Joseph H. Saunders, superintendent of schools. Brief talks are to be given by R. G. White and Prof. L. F. Palmer, principal of Huntington high school. Rev. J. B. Henderson, another Negro minister, will pronounce the benediction.

The exercises are public.

Homer L. Ferguson, president; E. J. Robeson Jr., personnel manager; and other shipyard officials have been invited to sit on the platform.

The program also includes three numbers by the Huntington chorus, with Mozart T. Frazer conducting—the spiritual, "Steal Away;" "Gotta Lie Down" (arr. Hall Johnson); and "Better Be Ready" (Dett). A vocal solo by Mrs. Ida Dorsey, Negro, also is listed.



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Farmville, Va. Herald
April 2, 1937

Recreation Center For Negroes Here Fills Urgent Need

Activities Planned to Interest All Groups

Farmville's new community recreation center for colored citizens and their children, which is located on Hill street, has been showing marked progress during the past few weeks, records show. Attendance at the center has increased to a point where additional space, equipment, and supervision is urgently needed, it was stated by the state consultant on Negro WPA recreation programs who was here to inspect the work of the Farmville group recently.

The new center was first organized in a small way on Jan. 27 under the sponsorship of the local Council of Negro Women, and the Farmville town council voted to furnish the rent for four rooms to be used for a leisure time recreation center for Negroes. Furniture and play equipment were provided through the efforts of the Council of Negro Women, which also arranged to have a hot lunch of soup or cocoa for the pre-school children's group daily.

Under the recreation program of the WPA in this section, which is under the direction of Mrs. Bradshaw, one full time director for the center is being paid with a part time helper and one young girl leader who is employed under the provisions of the NYA.

The aim of the recreation center is to furnish wholesome surroundings for Negro citizens of Farmville in which they may spend their leisure time in recreation and constructive activities. The rooms are so organized that while young children are being amused in organized play in one room, quiet games may go on in another, and music, magazines,

Social Conditions, Improvement of - 1937

Virginia

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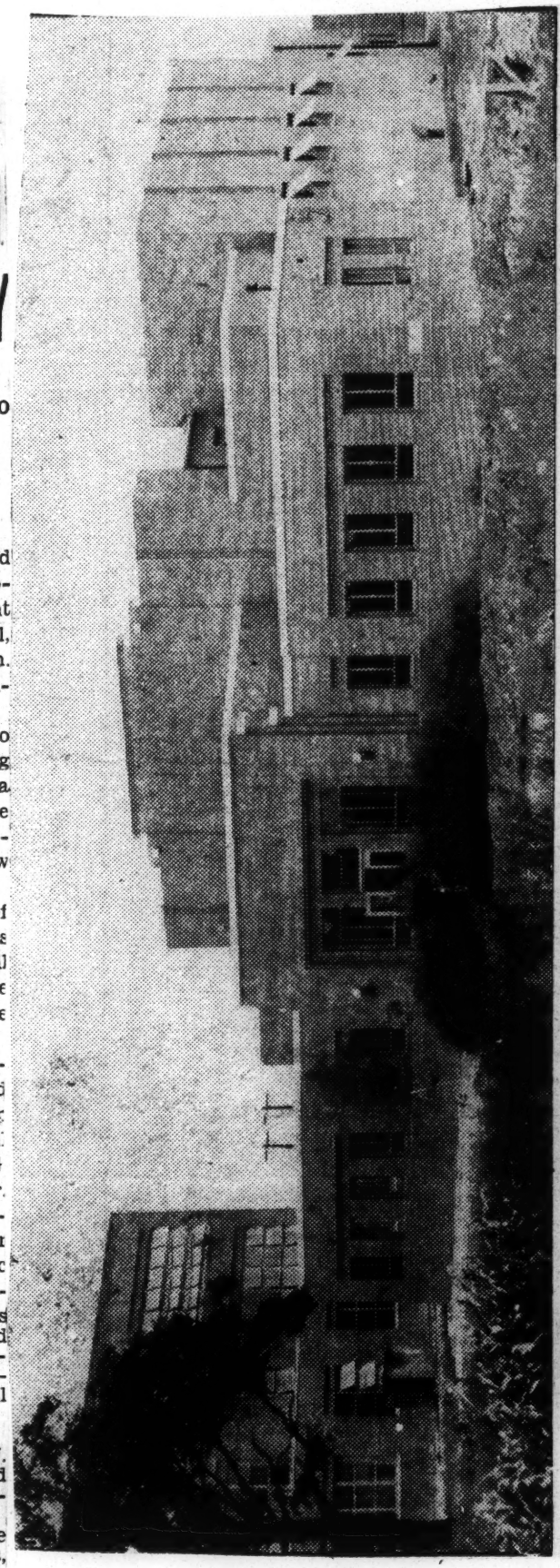

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The aim of the recreation center is to furnish wholesome surroundings for Negro citizens of Farmville in which they may spend their leisure time in recrea-tion and constructive activities. The rooms are so organized that while young children are being amused in organized play in one room, quiet games may go on in another, and music, magazines,

and equipment for light lunches or refreshments can be placed in the kitchen of the center.

Just as soon as the qualified workers can be secured here, the WPA recreation project is willing to pay for the employment of two more providing that the use of the center for community purposes justifies the expense. It is the plan of the group in charge to then organize wood working classes, hobby clubs, and sewing groups.

Under the present program the center has activities for preschool children from 2 to 6 years old each day. These include games, stories, music and outdoor play. There is a daily attendance of nearly twenty young tots most of whom have their parents at work.

Wednesday and Friday afternoons activities for groups of children from 7 to 16 years have attracted attendance of more than 100 young people each week. Of these 115 enrolled for regular recreation programs and a leaders' group has been organized of twelve captains. Ruth Lockett is president of the leaders' club with Lawrence Barkley, vice-president and Mary Glaze, secretary. This club meets weekly to plan new activities.

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday nights are "open house" at the recreation center with programs and free activities for adults over 17 years of age. A recreation representative from the Green Bay CCC camp has volunteered to put on a special program each Thursday night for several weeks, beginning next week.

Mrs. Annie Randolph is the colored director in charge of the center. She works under direct supervision of Mrs. Bradshaw, county supervisor of the WPA recreation projects, and of the special council of the Negro women comprising Mrs. Laura Austin, chairman; Mrs. Mary Booker, secretary; Dr. Aarchambeau, treasurer; Vanessa Reed, and the Rev. C. H. D. Griffin.

Danville, Va., Register
June 17, 1937

COSTLY ECONOMY

While The Register is in sympathy with the present movement in the Congress to reduce the cost of government and eliminate waste, we have long held the view that economy consists in getting a dollar's value for every dollar spent rather than in saving money recklessly by the simple expedient of cutting down the number of dollars.

Support for this view as applied to government expeditures is offered by the article written by Roy C. Flannagan for The Richmond News Leader contrasting two housing projects established at Newport News for Negroes. One of the settlements, Aberdeen, was built by the Resettlement Administration, and the other, Swantown, was established by a private corporation with the aid of the Federal Housing Administration.

As might have been expected, the private corporation did its work more cheaply than did the governmental agency. Though figures on the costs of the two projects have not been made public, the selling price of the Aberdeen units has been fixed at $3,326.49 and the selling price of the Swantown units was at first set at $2,100 per unit, later raised to $2,400. Offhand it would seem, therefore, that private industry proved more efficient than government industry to the tune of a $1,000 or more per unit.

But as Mr. Flannagan points out, "there is as much difference between the two [settlements] as there is between a watermelon and a pea."

Aberdeen has 158 houses, a school, a community building—is to be a well-rounded village. Swantown has but 41 houses and nothing else.

In Aberdeen all the houses are of brick veneer with central heating, built to last at least 50 years. The Swantown homes are of cinderblock and frame construction, not nearly so well built. Moreover their roofs have been leaking and this has caused serious depreciation. . . .

Aberdeen residents will be "managed" and taught to become vegetable gardeners and to live under ultra-modern conditions. No guidance whatever is being given the Swantown people.

Both villages are located on low ground. All the land around Newport News is low. The Aberdeen settlement, nevertheless, seems to be in an area that has been well drained for years while Swantown is on land which still is swampy.

Aberdeen has a central sewerage system and well planned surface drainage. Swantown has an independent sewerage unit for each house which the health authorities have held to be inadequate. This system has created the conditions which caused the Warwick Circuit Court to order the whole community evacuated by July 5.

And so we repeat that, while we believe in economy in government, we do not care for the sort of economy which "saves" money by wasting money.

Newport News, Va. Press
June 27, 1937

Colored Center To Hold Formal Opening June 30

A special program including music by the Hampton institute band, short talks by prominent citizens of the community and state and recreational activities are included for the formal opening of the colored community center on North King street from 3 to 7 p. m. Wednesday.

The center has been in operation under the direction of S. M. Moore since early spring, but has never had a formal opening. The assistant directors include Annie Jackson and Helen Sharpe.

The recreational activities for the opening day include tennis matches, softball games, volley ball games and other recreational activities for children.

The board of directors and leaders at the center have extended an invitation to all Negroes of the community to attend the exercises and acquaint themselves with the work of the community enterprise.

Newport News, Va. Press
October 11, 1937

ABERDEEN PROJECT TO BE OPEN NOV. 1 FOR 25 FAMILIES

Negotiating With Elizabeth City Officials for School Facilities; Applications Being Received

Newport News Homesteads, known locally as Aberdeen, will be opened for occupancy Nov. 1 when it is planned that the first 25 families will move into their new homes, it was announced yesterday by William R. Walker Jr., Negro, community manager of the project. The announcement was made following a meeting of the sponsoring committee for the project which was held at the home of Dr. Arthur Howe at Hampton institute.

Arrangements for electricity have been completed and the construction of distribution lines and connections to the first houses to be occupied is under way, Walker announced.

Negotiations for school facilities are being carried on with Elizabeth City county officials. It is proposed, the announcement said, that children on the project will be transported to Hampton schools until enough children are living on the project to make possible efficient operation of the community building and school, now nearing completion.

The five-year period during which homesteaders would have been required to rent before entering into purchase agreements has been reduced to one year, during which rentals will be $11.50 per month for the three-room houses, $13.50 for the four-room houses and $15.50 for the five-room dwellings, it was announced by the committee.

These rates were set up because of the incomplete status of the project and because savings expected from subsistence gardening cannot be made during the first year, the announcement said.

Would Beat Cold Weather

Instead of waiting for a bus line to serve the project, hearings for which were completed in Richmond Oct. 1, it was decided by the committee to open the project for occupancy before cold weather, and make temporary arrangements for transportation.

Applications for homes are still being received, the project manager said. It is expected that the one-year rental period, under the schedule now adopted, may make it possible for the development to be of greater value to the low-income families for which the project was designed. Monthly payments on purchase contracts will be at a somewhat higher rate, but anticipated savings from subsistence gardening on the half-acre lots will more than compensate for the increase, the report of the committee stated. Application forms for houses may be obtained from any of the members of the sponsoring committee, or by calling at or telephoning the project office, it was announced.

Members of the sponsoring committee are Prof. T. C. Erwin, chairman, principal of Dunbar school, Newport News; William M. Cooper, secretary, extension director, Hampton institute; Dr. Arthur Howe, president of Hampton institute; Prof. L. F. Palmer, principal of Huntington high school, Newport News; John S. Smith, Newport News; C. E. Freeman, Longshoremen's union, Newport News; Rev. A. A. Galvin, pastor, Negro First Baptist church, Newport News; L. E. Wilson, secretary of building-loan firm, Hampton; and Don A. Davis, head accountant, Hampton institute.

Furniture Available

Furniture will be available for homesteaders who do not already own adequate furniture, it was announced by the committee.

Figures obtained by Senator Harry F. Byrd from the independent audit bureau of the government showed that the cost of the units at the Aberdeen settlement was about $9,000 each. On the basis of such figures, it has been estimated that a return of 10 per cent annually would be required on a privately owned piece of property of like nature to meet taxes, depreciation, insurance, maintenance and other costs and show a profit.

On the basis of rental figures issued by the committee, families moving into a three-room dwelling will pay an annual rental of $138. Those in four-room dwellings will pay an annual rental of $162 on the basis of figures given out by the committee. Families moving into a five-room house will pay an annual rental of $186.

About half of the families to move in Nov. 1 already have been notified and the remainder of the 25 will be notified by Nov. 1, it was announced by the community manager.

Social Conditions, Improvement of - 1937

West Virginia
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Poorest Are Worst Hit; Negroes Hardest of All

Daily Worker 1-29-37

Washed Out Again and Again, Riverside Dwellers of Wheeling, Destitute, Wait to Return to Old Insecurity in Decrepit Slum Homes

By Adam Lapin
(Special to the Daily Worker)

WHEELING, W. Va., Jan. 27.—I found the meaning of the flood to this city in suffering and pain not while rowing in the whirling waters of the Ohio but in the Market Street Auditorium, where more than 400 Negro and white men, women and children found temporary shelter.

Here the flood sufferers sat around on benches waiting for the waters to recede so that they could return to their homes.

Here they stood in line for food, and those suffering from illness found treatment.

As darkness moved on the flood-swept city, fully one-third of the population of 75,000 had been affected by the third onrush of the waters in the past two weeks, and the second major flood during the year.

NEGROES HARDEST HIT

Although the waters of the swollen Ohio were retreating rapidly and had already relinquished their grip on a good part of the business section, the problems of the destitute people continued unsolved.

Particularly hard hit by the flood were the Negro people who live crowded together in two or three streets in decrepit frame houses.

I passed their houses in South Wheeling in a rowboat. This part of the city is completely under water. It is close to the river and to the railroad tracks and it's here that the poorest people live.

More than half of the homeless people in the Market Street Auditorium were Negroes.

There were a large number of children romping and running around. Their parents were more subdued, sitting quietly on benches and waiting.

There seemed an utter hopelessness about many of the Negro workers I talked to. Time and again they had been washed out of their homes by the flood, but of course they would return now, because they had nowhere else to go.

THE REFUGEES' STORIES

Burle Killin lives in this section of the city with his wife and his 15-year-old boy because he can rent rooms there for $10 a month. And that is more than he can afford to pay because he hasn't worked for years. He used to be a miner years ago, and is not even on relief now. Killin's tall, haggard-looking wife nodded her head sombrely as he discussed his condition.

When I asked whether he didn't think that floods could be prevented, he nodded eagerly.

"And that would give jobs too," he said. "A job now for some of us is like a million dollars."

The story of other Negro workers I spoke to was similar. The entire Negro population seems to live in complete misery.

Major Thomas lost most of his clothes and whatever furniture he had last year in the flood. He used to be a miner, then he lost his job, and was put on WPA. He was sent to a transient camp by WPA, but was laid off several months ago and has no regular income now.

ANOTHER VICTIM

Emma Raab, a stout middle-aged woman who has been managing to get along somehow on the $22.95 she gets every two weeks from WPA. On this sum she has supported a 20-year old daughter who is in poor health and can't work. Her husband has been dead for five years. She must also support an old helpless Negro who has been boarded with her by the relief board, and now there is the flood damaging what there is of her meagre household.

A WPA brass band was playing while I was talking to some of these destitute Negroes. But only a few rows of seats were occupied in front of the band, and these were filled mainly by the kids who didn't seem to mind so much. Most of their parents sat around on the benches encircling the auditorium just sitting and waiting.